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# GRASSROOTS GOVERNMENT: Biographies of Waterloo Township Councillors

Elizabeth Bloomfield, Design and Co-ordination  
and Linda Foster, Research

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Elizabeth Bloomfield, Design and Co-ordination  
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The BLOWATP database may be searched on the Waterloo Historical Society's computer in the Grace Schmidt Room of Local History, Kitchener Public Library. Researchers are invited to use this research tool, and also to let us know of facts that might be added or corrected in the database.

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*Grassroots government: biographies of Waterloo Township councillors is one of a series of research reports produced during the Waterloo Township history project (1992-5).*

*Others are:*

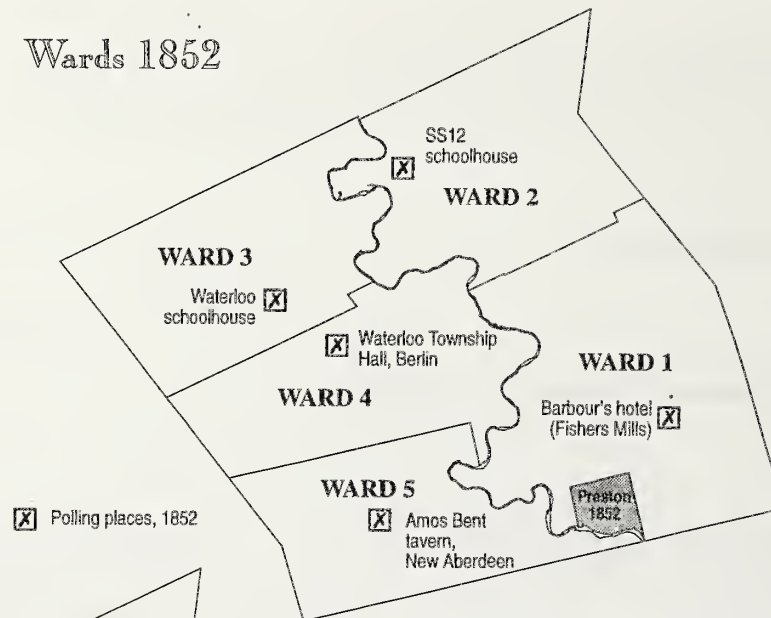
*Founding families of Waterloo Township, 1800-1830 (ISBN 0-9698660-4-6)*

*Families and communities of Waterloo Township in 1861 (ISBN 0-9698660-7-0)*

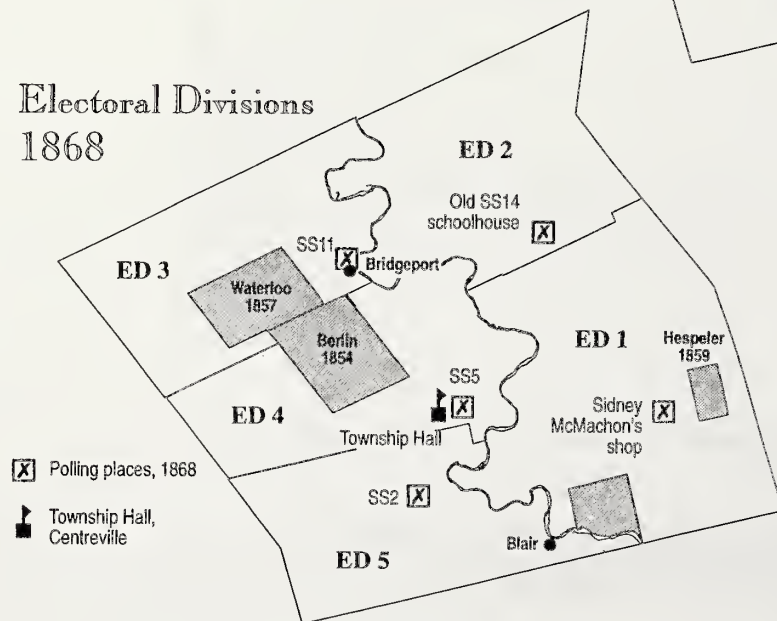
*Localities of landowners: assessment roll evidence, 1861-1951 (ISBN 0-9698660-3-8)*

*Waterloo Township schools 1842-1972 (ISBN 0-9698660-5-4)*

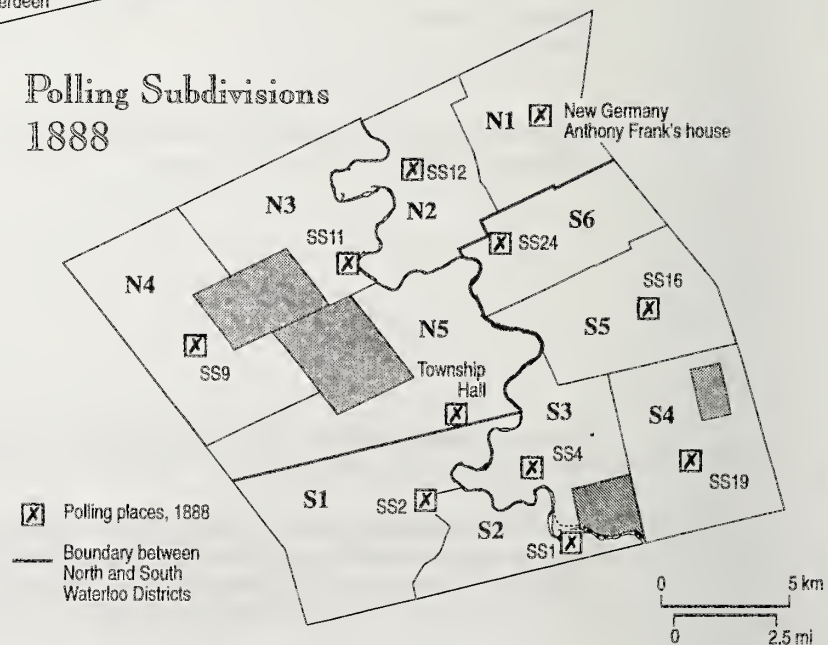
## Wards 1852



## Electoral Divisions 1868



## Polling Subdivisions 1888





## INTRODUCTION

For its first 50 years, Waterloo Township was marginal in the Upper Canadian system of law, order and government--because it was located at the extreme edge of the settled area and most of its people spoke German. Township people were subject first to a district government based in York (Toronto) until 1816, then to district capitals in Hamilton (until 1841) and Guelph. Only in 1852 did Waterloo Township become the core of an administrative county, when the centrally located village of Berlin was chosen as the seat of government for the new County of Waterloo.

### *Local Administration before 1850*

Until Waterloo Township was incorporated as a municipality in 1850, real power lay with the Court of Quarter Sessions that met four times a year in the district town until 1841, and then with the District Council until 1850. A few township residents served as justices of the peace (JPs) or magistrates, including John Erb, William Ellis, George Clemens, William Scollick and H.W. Peterson.

Local JPs were empowered to call annual town meetings of all resident householders liable to pay rates, mainly to select local officials whose duties were to carry out the provincial and district laws and regulations. The legislation dates from 1793, but we have no evidence of town meetings before Waterloo Township was made part of the Gore District. The township officers included a clerk, assessors, collector, overseers of highways, poundkeepers and town wardens. There was very little scope for self-government, and funds for any public improvements had to be petitioned from the district government. But town meetings gave residents a forum to discuss matters of shared concern.

The first annual meeting for Waterloo Township is said to have been in 1822.<sup>1</sup> Nomination procedures at such meetings were "boisterous in the extreme... The most noisy and forward fellow in the crowd called out some fellow-citizen's name in connection with some office, the crowd shouted their approval, and the clerk wrote down the name. The man was practically installed in his office by this rude process."<sup>2</sup> Absentees from the meeting could be nominated for offices; if they later declined, amendments and substitutions had to be printed in the local weekly newspapers.

Early town meetings were held at O'Loane's tavern on the Preston-Berlin road. Between 1835 and 1841, they alternated between the

schoolhouse or Gaukel's inn in Berlin one year and Isaac Salyerds' inn or elsewhere in Preston the next. A "Township House" in Berlin is mentioned from late 1836 as a location for township meetings. Among the local men who served as township officers are George Clemens, "clerk of the township" in 1822, who was followed by Jacob Bock for the years 1823 to 1826, Daniel Lutz in 1829, and David Clemens for 1827, 1828, and from 1830 to 1839. The clerk's main duty was to keep a record of the minutes of the town meeting.

More onerous were the tasks of assessors. Samuel Erb and Daniel Snyder were assessors in 1822, followed by Jacob Bock and Samuel Sherk in 1823, David Clemens in 1831, Jacob Lutz in 1837 and 1838, and Daniel Lutz in 1842. The rolls they compiled were sent to the clerk of the peace in the district town for calculating the taxes due. Collectors such as Abraham Erb (1822 and 1823), David Clemens (1836) and Samuel Eby Sr (1837, 1838 and 1839) had to extract these amounts from property-holders.

Overseers of highways (also called pathmasters) had to oversee the system of statute labour, the obligation of every adult male between the ages of 21 and 50 to perform three days' labour annually on the roads in his neighbourhood--personally or sending an able-bodied substitute. At first, pathmasters also had to adjudicate in fence disputes between neighbours but, from 1834, these duties were transferred to a new set of township officers called fenceviewers. Poundkeepers were elected at the town meeting to impound and care for strayed animals.

From 1841, it was possible for township property-holders to elect two representatives to the Wellington District Council which met at Guelph. District councillors tended to be much more responsive and accountable to the people they represented than the JPs had been, especially in promoting improvements such as roads, bridges and schoolhouses. But their powers were circumscribed by the appointed district officials, the need to report all bylaws to the Governor-in-Council, and strict limits on expenditure and powers to tax property. Jonathan B. Bowman and James Cowan, first elected in November 1841, continued to represent Waterloo Township through the 1840s until the end of the district era.

Part A of this report presents information about a sample of the early officials of Waterloo Township before incorporation in 1850.<sup>3</sup>

### *Township Self-Government from 1850*

At last in 1850, Waterloo Township achieved effective self-government with new powers and officials. In 1852, it also became the core of the new municipality of Waterloo County which lasted until 1972. The powers previously exercised by the Court of Quarter Sessions, and then by the District Council, were divided between the township council and the county council. The Waterloo Township Council set up local administrative machinery and routines that provided order and stability for more than a century.<sup>4</sup> In the 1850s, leaders of four village communities (Preston, Berlin, Waterloo and Hespeler) chose to form separate municipalities independent of the township council.

How did the people of Waterloo Township govern themselves? What kind of people did they elect as councillors? The annual township meeting in December (November in the twentieth century) nominated men for election and continued many features of the older town meeting. Before and after the actual meeting, people met for informal discussion of domestic, municipal, provincial and national issues. Usually more men were nominated than really intended to stand for election. Any person with a grievance or a proposal would seek or accept nomination so that he could have a hearing in the later part of the annual meeting.

After nominations closed, the real interest of the meeting began. Chaired by the clerk, current members of the council spoke first, then those who had just been nominated, and finally any elector might speak. Out of courtesy, the reeve who was finishing his term of office would explain how he had acted in the township's interests on the county council and, if he was a candidate in the forthcoming election, his views on any issue expected in the new year. The deputy-reeves would give a similar account of themselves. If a reeve and his deputy differed on an important matter, the deputy would make this an issue at the next election and oppose the reeve. After a whole afternoon spent in discussion of municipal policy, nominations which were not seriously intended were cancelled. If there remained two or more candidates for the reeveship, or two or more candidates for any deputy-reeveship, or more than the requisite number of candidates for the office of councillor, then a poll would be demanded.

While anyone might attend the township meeting, only qualified electors could nominate candidates or vote in township elections. An elector had to be male, aged 21 or over, a British subject, and assessed

in the township for \$100 or more. To be eligible for election to the township council, a man had to be a resident, at least 21 years old, a British subject, and a freeholder (with assessed property worth at least \$400) or a householder (of property valued at \$800 or more). Numbers of persons able to vote and stand for office in Waterloo Township may have been reduced by the need for European immigrants to obtain citizenship by naturalization. However, until after the First World War, the requirement to be a British subject was not rigorously enforced.

In 1850 and 1851, all five councillors of Waterloo Township were elected on an equal basis and at their first meeting elected a reeve and deputy-reeve from among their number. From 1852 to 1866, one councillor was elected from each of five wards; at their first meeting of the year, the councillors elected a reeve and deputy-reeve from among themselves. Beginning in 1867, the reeve and two deputy-reeves (with a third deputy-reeve from 1887) were elected directly to those offices by all the township's eligible voters. The ward divisions continued to be used for property assessment and tax collection purposes until the 1940s. Although councillors were not formally elected by wards after 1866, they were effectively drawn from most sections of the township.

For most of the period from 1850 to 1972, elections for the township council effectively provided township representatives to the county council as well. In townships with more than 500 electors, one of the four councillors who was not reeve would be elected deputy-reeve so the township would have two seats on the county council. In a township with over 1,000 electors, one of the three remaining councillors would be elected a second deputy-reeve, and so on, with each additional 500 electors, to a maximum of four deputy-reeves. However, between 1897 and 1906, county councillors were elected directly by the voters in divisions of the county area. After direct elections to county councils were abandoned in 1906, the former system was reinstated except that a municipality was usually represented by the reeve and at most only one deputy-reeve.<sup>5</sup>

Reeves, deputy-reeves or councillors, if unopposed at the end of the nomination meeting, might be acclaimed. But usually there was some need for an election which would be organized on the first Monday in January. The annual elections were sometimes associated with special votes on money bylaws or "referenda" on issues such as prohibition, for example. Polling places were set up in locations throughout the township, usually schoolhouses. The same divisions and polling places



were used for electing provincial and federal members for the North Waterloo and South Waterloo Districts. Voter turnout was generally high compared with the mid-twentieth century, 90 per cent of those eligible voting in township elections in the 1880s. The level in Waterloo Township may have been lowered a little by lack of literacy or confidence in the English language or reflecting Mennonite farmers' convictions that they were "in the world but not of it"? According to tradition and elders' memories, old Mennonites at least voted, if they did not stand for office.

### *Township Councillors, 1850-1972*

In the 123 years that Waterloo Township had its own municipal council, 112 men were elected as councillors. Only men could vote and hold office until the early 1920s, and only men were ever elected. Of these, 44 became reeve or head (30 of them for two years or more), and 68 also represented the township on the Waterloo County Council as reeve or a deputy-reeve. Information about these men is presented in the summary table and profiles of Part B of this report. What kinds of men served as councillors? How representative were they of the whole township?

For most men, being elected a township councillor was the apex of a pyramid of municipal duties. Many more were involved than the five councillors: a total of 162 men had designated roles in township government in 1854 and almost 200 in 1904. In addition, every able-bodied man had to perform statute labour on the roads for at least a few days a year or pay commutation dues. Three trustees were elected in each school section: there were 25 sections in 1865 and 28 by 1900. The few men who became councillors almost certainly had served in a variety of lesser roles such as pathmaster, assessor or trustee.

Table 1 summarizes trends in the length of council service. The mean term on the council tended to increase with each decade, as municipal business became routine and as the farming community stabilized. Between 1850 and the end of the First World War, 72 councillors served on council an average 5.2 years, while the 40 men from 1920 to 1972 were on council for a mean 6.5 years. Men who became township reeve had longer council terms (an average 6.5 years before 1920 and 10.5 years later) and were reeve for an average two years before 1920 and four years later. Eleven councillors active after the First World War (compared with only three earlier) were on the council for ten or more years each.

Table 1: Township Councillors by Years of Service, in Decades

decade	# councillors starting	mean years on council
1850s	15	3.8
1860s	10	5.5
1870s	16	3.5
1880s	9	5.8
1890s	8	6.0
1900s	8	7.8
1910s	6	7.3
1920s	6	7.3
1930s	7	6.9
1940s	11	5.0
1950s	8	8.4
1960-1972	8	3.3

For most of Waterloo Township's history, it was administered by part-time amateurs. Councillors were paid a *per diem* rate for meetings at which their primary responsibility was to see that the actual work of the township was done as ordered. Unlike the other officials, they were not supposed to do any of this work, though their expenses in monitoring the quality of township public works could be reimbursed. Reeves and deputy-reeves could collect commissions and expenses from the county council as well.

Councillors in the first decades of Waterloo Township were significantly above the average in their property values and general prosperity. In the period 1850 to 1880, for example, councillors had more than twice the mean acreage and more than 2.5 times the mean assessed value of all property-holders in the township. Early councillors' households were also notably larger than average, including non-family labourers and servants as well as sons and daughters whose labour made it possible to take time away from their farms for township business. But this pattern gradually weakened. In 1861, 17 past or current councillors ranked among the 100 largest property-owners in the township (seven of them in the top 25). In 1881, the top hundred included 16 councillors (with four in the top 25) and in 1901, 12 councillors ranked in the township's top hundred (five in the top 25). By 1921, nine councillors were among the top hundred (two in the top 25); in 1951, the top hundred included only five councillors; and in 1959 there were only four.

## Waterloo Township Councillors 1850-1919

- ▲ Reeves
- Other councillors
- Electoral divisions
- Roads
- Urban centres



## Waterloo Township Councillors 1920-1972

- ▲ Reeves
- Other councillors
- Electoral divisions
- ▨ Urban centres 1920
- Annexed by 1960





Table 2: Councillors by Occupation

	1850-1919	1920-1972
Farmer	47	25
Farmer (plus)	11	5
Miller	4	-
Merchant	3	1
Physician	1	-
Veterinary surgeon	2	-
Contractor	3	-
Manufacturer (brick)	1	-
Factory employee	-	4
Manager	-	6
Auctioneer	-	1
Blacksmith	-	1
Drover	-	1
Pump business	-	1
TOTAL	72	45

Table 3: Councillors by Religion, 1850-1919

	1850-1919	1920-1972
Mennonite	33	5
Presbyterian	10	4
Methodist/United	9	9
United Brethren	6	2
Roman Catholic	3	7
Evangelical	3	2
Lutheran	2	3
Swedenborgian	2	1
Baptist	1	3
Christian	1	-
Universalist	1	-
Missionary	-	1
Protestant	-	1
Salvation Army	-	1
None/not known	1	6
TOTAL	72	45

Throughout the history of the municipal township from 1850 to 1972, 66 of 112 councillors described themselves as farmers, while 16 more combined farming with some other business activity (Table 2). In the 1850s, early township councillors had more varied occupations than later; some were notable merchants and millers who also farmed. As the villages formed their own governments and with the decline of milling, farming became virtually the only occupation of councillors from the 1880s. Many farmer-councillors from the 1880s were described as "improving" and "progressive." Domination of the council by farmers continued until the Second World War. Indeed only from 1960 to 1972 did farmers not form a majority on council. Four factory workers, mainly from the zone between Preston and Kitchener, were elected to council between 1947 and 1960, and six councillors in the 1960s were white-collar managers by occupation. But farmers dominated the reeveship: of the fourteen reeves between 1920 and 1972, only one was not a farmer--the auctioneer James Johannes, who was reeve in 1952 and 1953 and from 1956 to 1958.

Before the First World War, township leaders came from founding families. About half the men who served as councillors (or as clerk or treasurer) between 1850 and 1972 were members (descendants in the male line) of 30 pioneer families established in Waterloo Township by 1835. Men from pioneer families were even more prominent among those who served as township reeve--16 of the 21 reeves before 1900 serving 39 of the 50 years. In the twentieth century, between 1900 and 1972, only 11 of the 23 reeves bore the names of the 30 pre-1835 families and they led council in 30 of the 73 years. The strength of the pioneer families was weakened only in the township's last 25 years, when none of the reeves and only three of the councillors belonged to pre-1835 pioneer families.

Although all founding families were originally Mennonite or Tunker members or adherents, only 36 of all the 112 township councillors have been identified as Mennonite (or Tunker) at the time of their public life. Several councillors of Mennonite origin joined the United Brethren, Methodist, Evangelical, Missionary, Swedenborgian or Universalist churches. Other church affiliations of councillors were, in order, Presbyterian, Methodist, Roman Catholic, United Brethren, Evangelical, Lutheran, Baptist and Swedenborgian, with one each Christian, Christadelphian, Missionary and Universalist (Table 3).

When the church affiliations of councillors are compared to the whole township population, it is evident that Mennonites, Presbyterians and Methodists were over-represented before 1920. Forty-six per cent of councillors were Mennonite, approximately twice the Mennonite share of the total township population between the 1850s and the end of World War One. A combination of the smaller denominations--Presbyterians, Methodists, United Brethren, Evangelical, Swedenborgian, Baptist and Christian--together claimed under 30 per cent of the total population but 46 per cent of councillors. No Anglicans were elected to the township council. Roman Catholics and especially Lutherans were under-represented in the first 70 years, with only seven per cent of council seats for between 37 and 48 per cent of the population.

In the twentieth century and especially after 1950, Roman Catholics achieved much better representation with seven councillors (including two reeves) for about one-fifth of the township's people. Lutheran councillors were still very rare, with only three in relation to slightly over one-fifth of the total population. Mennonites decreased their involvement in township government, so that they too became somewhat under-represented. Some members of families who had been originally Mennonite had changed their church allegiance, and total numbers of Mennonites in the township dropped after 1950.

### *Politics and the Township Council*

What induced township councillors to assume such mundane and thankless duties? The honorarium was too small by itself, though it could be useful to pay one's own municipal taxes. Some men may have been moved by a strong sense of duty or a desire for standing, power and influence over others. Self-interest could be a factor, to ensure that one's own corner of the township had adequate services. Being on the council may have been a kind of insurance against a higher tax assessment. One observer in the 1880s considered that the hope of higher political advancement was the main motive. Without it, there was "not a class of capable men...who are either willing or financially able to administer the affairs of the township or the county for the little honor that attaches to such offices. Men do these things for the reward they promise either directly or indirectly; and there is no greater inducement that we can hold out than the hope of rising high in the estimation of party and country. All, of course, cannot rise to great importance, but all can indulge the hope of rising, and in this hope discharge onerous public duties which would otherwise be neglected."<sup>6</sup>

From the early 1850s, Waterloo County was divided for electoral purposes into Waterloo North and Waterloo South. The boundary between the two ridings ran through Waterloo Township, along the Block Line west of the river, then north along the river to the southern boundary of Horning's Tract. Waterloo South consisted of the southern part of Waterloo Township and all of North Dumfries and Wilmot townships and the towns of Galt, Preston, Hespeler and later Ayr. The rest of Waterloo Township was grouped with Wellesley and Woolwich townships and the towns of Berlin, Waterloo, New Hamburg and Elmira in the Waterloo North electoral riding. Between 1850 and 1867, the only Waterloo Township men to represent Waterloo South were Robert Ferrie of Doon Mills (1854-8) and James Cowan (1862-7); none of the men elected for Waterloo North were township residents. After Confederation, township citizens elected members of the Ontario Legislature and the Dominion Parliament from the same ridings. Rural and farm voters tended to support Liberal candidates, in contrast to the Conservative voters in the towns and villages.

How much did party politics matter in local government? In the 1880s, one observer noted, "no man's politics are urged in public as a reason for supporting him, [but] a strong vein of politics runs through township elections especially of reeves and deputy-reeves." The county council was regarded as "a school of which aspirants for parliamentary honours should be graduates. The wardenship is a stepping stone to a seat in parliament."<sup>7</sup> The warden was elected from whichever political party claimed the largest number of county councillors. So this factor had a bearing on township elections. Politics also played a part on the choice of township assessors, because the electoral roll was derived from the assessment roll. An assessor could both ensure that all supporters of his party were listed and (more critically) omit the names of supporters of the other party, especially electors who were wage-earners or farmers' sons.

Eight men were elected warden of Waterloo County while representing Waterloo Township before 1920, accounting for 14 of the 68 years. They were Dr John Scott (1852-1853 for the township, and 1854-1855 for Berlin), Isaac Clemens (1857-1860), Wendell Bowman (1861), Ephraim Erb (1867), Henry McNally (1878), James P. Phin (1890), Tilman Shantz (1902) and William C. Shaw (1915). Two others who had been on the township council became county wardens while representing another municipality formed out of the township--George



Randall of Waterloo in 1870 and Lewis Kribs of Hespeler in 1883. Of these, only Isaac Clemens fits the model of a graduate of the township and county councils being elected to legislature or parliament. He was the only resident of Waterloo Township to be successful in either riding between 1867 and the end of World War I.

At the township level, party political loyalties would be balanced by other considerations, such as the courtesy of letting a long-serving deputy-reeve or councillor have his turn at the reeveship. The custom of rotating the wardenship of the county around the various county municipalities could affect nominations for reeve, so that a worthy and competent man could become warden. But "honesty, neighborliness and ability" carried weight with the average voter who would "vote for a man residing in his quarter of the township...but demands honesty...and a fair ability." The voters tended to re-elect an experienced man who wished to serve and had made no obvious mistakes. But they were "unmerciful to any dishonesty or blundering if it is brought to light, and brought to light it certainly will be when so many of the electors take so constant an interest in the proceedings of the township council."<sup>8</sup>

By the end of the First World War, township politics and administration seemed to settle into grooves. Nomination meetings were less contentious and acclamations of reeves and councillors more common. After the Second World War, township elections were again more keenly contested though voting participation tended to decline as the non-farm population increased, sinking to a low of 19 per cent of eligible voters in the late 1958 elections. In a plebiscite then, a small majority favoured two-year terms for councillors, to become effective after the 1959 elections. Candidates usually received most votes in the polling places closest to their homes, but support was strongest first for farmers and then for those with proven experience on council.

Theodore H. (Ted) Isley was the only person who served on the Waterloo Township Council after 1920 to represent the area in provincial legislature or federal parliament. Representing the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (CCF, later renamed the New Democratic Party), Isley scored a surprise victory in 1948, over the Liberal sitting member, N.O. Hipel, and the Conservative Gordon Chaplin, for the Waterloo South seat in the Ontario Legislature. Defeated in the provincial election in late 1951, Isley was nominated next day as deputy-reeve of the township. He later served as township reeve for nine years and as county warden in 1968.

### *Township Officials* (see Part C of this report)

Clerks and treasurers combined their township duties with other business activities and tended to belong to a few families until after the Second World War. When Bridgeport merchant David S. Shoemaker gave up being clerk-treasurer in 1861, the clerk's position was taken by William Tilt (1805-1883) who had settled at Blair as a teacher, merchant and tanner. Tilt's records were "considered as models of municipal system" in the words of his son George A., a Blair dealer in agricultural implements who succeeded his father from 1883 to 1918. He was followed, from 1918 to 1948, by Peter Alba Snider, youngest son of a former councillor and second cousin of two current councillors. The Bridgeport miller Elias Eby was treasurer from 1862 to 1864, then Isaac L. Bowman of Freeport to 1890, followed by Levi Stauffer for one year only. Peter Shirk (1839-1919), who arrived in the township from Lancaster County in the 1860s and operated mills at Bridgeport and Baden, began his long service as treasurer in 1892 and was succeeded in 1912 by his son, George M., until 1928 and his grandson Allen until the end of 1948..

Re-appointing the clerk and treasurer was usually a routine matter, Waterloo Township clerks and treasurers being remarkably durable. The clerk held the key to the smooth working of the whole municipal machine: his long experience and close involvement in every aspect of township administration inevitably gave him authority which could be resented by some councillors. As well as being secretary to the council and all committees and keeper of the township records, the clerk kept the official record of births, deaths and marriages. He made up the jury list, the "road list" (of those liable for statute labour for each pathmaster), and the collector's roll with amounts due for county rate, township rate and school rate.

In 1948-9, Waterloo Township shifted to a more salaried, professional form of management with the appointment of Leslie Bowman as clerk in 1948; he added the treasurer's duties in 1949. When Bowman left to become town clerk of Gananoque at the end of 1951, he was followed from 1952 to 1955 by Harold Jacob Snider who had been a councillor in 1946 and 1947. Snider combined the duties of assessment commissioner and tax collector with being clerk-treasurer before his resignation in December 1955. Gordon Cooper, formerly clerk of Wellesley Township, became township clerk in March 1957 and combined the treasurer's duties as well from 1959 until the demise of Waterloo Township in December 1972.

# Notes to Introduction

- <sup>1</sup> Waterloo Township Council, Consolidated by-laws of the Township of Waterloo up to the year 1913: to which is appended an historical sketch of the early settlement and subsequent development of the township, and other interesting matter (Preston: Preston Progress, 1913) p.14. The current Township Clerk, George A. Tilt probably compiled the "sketch of early settlement" printed at the beginning of this volume. He acknowledged that part of the sketch was derived from the outline of Waterloo County history published in 1881 [as part of Parsell's Illustrated Atlas] while "the balance was obtained from old settlers, and the official documents in the office of the Township Clerk" (p.16).
- <sup>2</sup> J.M. McEvoy, The Ontario township (Toronto University Studies in Political Science, No.1, 1889), p.19, quoting John Carey of Caradoc Township.
- <sup>3</sup> For a more detailed account of the administration of Waterloo Township before 1850, see Elizabeth Bloomfield, Waterloo Township through two centuries (Waterloo Historical Society, 1995), chapter 4.
- <sup>4</sup> For an analysis of municipal administration and politics in Waterloo Township from 1850 to 1972, see Bloomfield, Waterloo Township through two centuries (1995), chapter 6 and 11.
- <sup>5</sup> For two years after they ceased to have a function on the Waterloo County Council, three deputy-reeves were elected from Waterloo Township. From 1899 to 1906 there were no deputy-reeves on the Waterloo Township Council. When the divisional system of representation was abandoned, in time to elect the 1907 county council, Waterloo Township elected one deputy-reeve as well as its reeve. Later, between 1923 and 1931 inclusive, a second deputy-reeve was also elected.
- <sup>6</sup> McEvoy, The Ontario township, p.42.
- <sup>7</sup> McEvoy, The Ontario township, p.30.
- <sup>8</sup> McEvoy, The Ontario township, p.30.

## NOTE ON SOURCES USED IN BIOWATP DATABASE

All references in the Waterloo Regional Project's bibliography (WRPBib), cemetery transcriptions, the Historical Atlas of 1881, Eby's A biographical history, Pepper's index to Hannes Schneider, and manuscript census microfilms have been consulted. All possible resources at KPL and OCCA have been used; municipal offices have also been canvassed.

Under **Sources** for each biography, we give details of vertical files, obituaries, census, and photo locations in which information was found. Direct quotes in the **Notes** and other sections of each biography are attributed in brief form to the obituary or other source.

## Frequently Cited Sources and Abbreviations:

Standardized abbreviations are explained in the following list:

AO	Archives of Ontario
BDT	<u>Berlin Daily Telegraph</u>
BNR	<u>Berlin News Record</u>
CDR	<u>Cambridge Daily Reporter</u>
CER	<u>Cambridge Evening Reporter</u>
DN	<u>Daily News (Berlin)</u>
DR	<u>Daily Record (Berlin)</u>
DReformer	<u>Dumfries Reformer</u>
GDR	<u>Galt Daily Reporter</u>
GER	<u>Galt Evening Reporter</u>
GR	<u>Galt Reporter</u>
GSR	Grace Schmidt Room of Local History, KPL
GWR	<u>Galt Weekly Reporter</u>
Hall of Fame Waterloo County	Hall of Fame files
HA	<u>Historical atlas of Waterloo County</u> (1881)
KDR	<u>Kitchener Daily Record</u>
KWR	<u>Kitchener-Waterloo Record</u>
KPL	Kitchener Public Library
MLJ	<u>Maple Leaf Journal</u>
NHI	<u>New Hamburg Independent</u>
obit	obituary
OCCA	City of Cambridge Archives
OHT	Oral History Tape (at KPL or OCCA)
Signet	<u>Elmira Signet</u>
vf	vertical file
watco cb	Waterloo County collected biography in vf at KPL
WC	<u>Waterloo Chronicle</u> or <u>Chronicle-Telegraph</u>



When published works have been cited briefly in profiles by the author's name, this is underlined in the following list. References which are cited briefly by a short form of the title or some other abbreviation are listed twice--once alphabetically by the short form of the title, and also by their more conventional bibliographical form.

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## PART A: EARLY OFFICIALS BEFORE INCORPORATION OF WATERLOO TOWNSHIP IN 1850

Note: not a complete list of all who must have shared in rudimentary local administration while Waterloo Township was subject to the Gore District and the Wellington District, before its municipal incorporation in 1850.

from	to	name	born	died	religion	occupation	land	township service
1822	1822	Clemens, George	1777	1863	Mennonite	Farmer	According	Clerk 1822
1822	1823	Erb, Abraham	1772	1830	Mennonite	Miller	Bought	Tax Collector in 1822, 1823.
1822	1822	Erb, Samuel	1792	1878	Mennonite	Farmer	GCT45/GCT	One of two Assessors in 1822-Daniel Snider was the other
1823	1826	Bock, Jacob	1789	1867	Mennonite	Farmer Potter	GCT118	Clerk 1823, 1824, 1825, 1826; was also an Assessor with Samuel Sherk in 1823; and an Assessor in Wilmot Tp in 1843 and 1844
1823	1823	Sherk, Samuel	1792	1874	Tunker	Farmer		Assessor in 1823 with Jacob Bock
1827	1838	Clemens, David	1791	1852	None	Farmer	GCT119E	Clerk 1827, 1828, 1830-1838; in 1836 he was also tax collector, a position that Eby says he may have held for several years
1829	1842	Lutz, Daniel	1798	1870	Tunker	Weaver	BBF16	Clerk 1829; Assessor 1842; "In 1830 Daniel Lutz was appointed"
1841	1841	Bowman, Samuel B. "Miller Sam"	1802	1883	Mennonite	Farmer/Miller	BOS6	238 Councillor in 1841
1842	1849	Cowan, James	1803	1900	Presbyteri	Farmer	BLB2-1/2	550 Township Councillor from 1842 to 1849, representing the Township at the District of Wellington.
1842	1850	Bowman, Jonathan B.	1792	1876	Universali	Farmer	WT9E	Township Councillor from 1842 to 1849, representing the Township at the District of Wellington. Then first Reeve of Waterloo Township.

## PROFILES OF EARLY OFFICIALS BEFORE 1850

**BOCK, JACOB,**

**Township Council:** Clerk 1823, 1824, 1825, 1826; was also an Assessor with Samuel Sherk in 1823; and an Assessor in Wilmot Tp in 1843 and 1844

**Born:** 1789, Feb 18 **Died:** 1867, Mar 18

**Family:** son of Frederick and Mary Reichart

**Address:** First stayed at Freeport, at the home of his uncle, Christian Reichart; later moved to New Dundee where he took up farming

**Occupation:** Farmer; Potter

**Origin:** Lancaster Co, PA

**Spouse:** Catharine Shupe (1798-1869)

**Children:** Levi; John; Mary (m. Peter Hamacher); Elizabeth (m. George Demstead); Catharine (m. William Bechtel); Magdalena; David; Rebecca (m. Abraham Bechtel); Jacob; Benjamin; Gideon; Samuel; Frederick; Ezra; Susannah (m. John Rosenberger)

**Religion:** Mennonite

**Landholdings:** GCT118; Wilmot Tp Block A, Conc 4, Lot 9

**Locality:** Freeport

**Organizations:** Blenheim Mennonite Church

**Notes:** Came to Canada "when a mere lad and resided with uncle, Christian Reichart, at Freeport" (Eby)

\* 1812 - pressed into being a teamster (Snyders)

\* 1816, Oct 16 - Samuel Bricker sold Jacob 45 acres of GCT118

\* 1822-1825 - produced pottery, notably a straight-sided jar, the earliest known marked piece of Ontario pottery

\* In 1841 he was ordained the first deacon in Blenheim Mennonite Church, an office he held until his death.

\* 1844 - Superintendent of Common Schools for Wilmot Township, a task he described as "a very critical, harassing, difficult, unprofitable and likewise responsible

business...but I still expect to get through with credit to myself and without incurring any penalty" (WHS1962 50:93)

\* Three Bock brothers played in New Dundee Band by 1848 - Jacob the trumpet, Levi the flute, Ben the clarinet (More than a century)

**Sources:** 60 years of progress; WHS 1982; Blair/Doon Tweedsmuir; Eby #1130; Early Ontario potters; More than a century; WHS1962 50:93

**BOWMAN, SAMUEL B. "MILLER SAM",**

**Township Council:** Councillor in 1841

**Born:** 1802, Feb. 6 **Died:** 1883, Nov. 17

**Family:** son of Rev. Joseph and Mary Baer; brother of Wendell qv

**Address:** Blair

**Occupation:** Farmer/Miller

**Origin:** Berks Co, PA

**Migration date:** 1816

**Spouse:** Elizabeth Baumann

**Children:** Joseph B.; Nancy (m. Allan Bowman); Isaac B.; Noah B.; Eliza (m. Simeon P. Bowman); Maria (m. John Gerrie) ; Lydia (m. Rev. Richard Hobbs)

**Religion:** Mennonite

**Landholdings:** BOS6

**Acres:** 238

**Locality:** Blair

**Organizations:** Hagey Mennonite Church, Preston

**Notes:** "He was a practical miller as well as a farmer, and in his time did a large business among the farming community." His farm is held by family descendants, but "the mills are now owned by Mr Hilborn" (Eby). He built a second grist mill in Blair in 1846, first known as Carlisle Mills that used the water twice. The mill was gutted by fire in 1928 and later rebuilt. The mill had "some of the finest pine lumber upon which I have set my eyes. Samuel B. Bowman owned a fine tract of virgin pine" (Harry S. Kinzie WHS1954 42:8)

\* According to the election results for the first township council(Snyders p.176C), Samuel B. Bowman received the largest number of votes in late 1849, but resigned shortly afterwards, so that another election was held.

\* He was a trustee of Hagey Mennonite Church with David Snyder and Henry Bechtel when land was conveyed by John Hilborn in 1842 to build the church. Also a trustee of Blair school.

\* Obit in Dumfries Reformer commented: " He



was a man far above the average in intelligence, and was possessed of a fund of information bearing on the early history of the county"

\* Note another Samuel B. Bowman, born in 1803 in Berks Co., married Nancy Burkholder, living near Bloomingdale on WT5 (Schweitzers v.5)

Sources: Snyders; Eby #249; obit Dumfries Reformer 22/11/1883p2; WHS1954 42:8.

# **CLEMENS, DAVID,**

**Township Council:** Clerk 1827, 1828, 1830-1838; in 1836 he was also tax collector, a position that Eby says he may have held for several years

**Born:** 1791, Nov. 3 **Died:** 1852, April 8

**Address:** 1833-35 he lived in Berlin; then moved to a farm later owned by John K. Devitt, and then moved to the Preston area; there was a letter for him at the Preston Post Office in 1841 (Snyders)

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Origin:** PA, Montgomery County

**Children:** Louisa (m. Stauffer Clemens); Lucinda (m. Abraham Master); William; Samuel

**Religion:** None

**Landholdings:** GCT119E in 1831AR

**Locality:** Natchez

**Notes:** As Township Clerk in 1837 he put a notice in the Dec. 3 issue of Canada Museum for a meeting Dec. 12th to discuss the erection of a new district and selection of a district town (WHS39).

**Sources:** Eby #1915; WHS1939 27:64; Snyders

# **CLEMENS, GEORGE,**

**Township Council:** Clerk 1822

**Born:** 1777, July 17 **Died:** 1863, August 10

**Family:** son of George and Elizabeth Carlisle (Eby)/ son of George and Catherine Carlisle (WHS1929 17:125)

**Address:** About a mile east of Preston, on the road from Preston to Breslau (Speedsville); later known as the Herbert Weber property (WHS1955 43:24)

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Origin:** PA, Chester County

**Migration date:** 1801/1800 (WHS1913 1:11) there is admitted confusion over the date (WHS1921 9:164)

**Spouse:** Esther Stauffer died in 1836; apparently she had 4 children before she was 21 and 18 in total before she died at 46; Elizabeth Bechtel, widow of David Histan; married in 1840

**Children:** Elizabeth; Levi; Mary; Harriet; George S.; Isaac; Mary Ann (m. Peter Erb Jr); Wilhelmine (m. Abraham Erb); Stauffer; Maria (m. Valentine Limprecht); Nancy (m. John L. Erb); John; William; Daniel; Oliver; Rachel (m. John Zink); Lewis; Amos; born Jan. 12, 1835

**Religion:** Mennonite

**Landholdings:** According to Ivan Groh, when Clemens first arrived in Waterloo Township, he bought 300 acres which had increased to 1,000 by his death. In 1833 he bought 200 acres on the north side of the Pine Bush Road 2 miles E of Preston, where Clearview School (SS 19) now is (WHS1964). According to Earl Werstine, he owned 9 farms along the Preston/Hespeler road.

**Locality:** Clearview

**Organizations:** Waterloo Tp, SS 19, Clearview Preston Mennonite Church

**Notes:** A man of whom myths are made: he is reputed to be the first person to drive a team through the Beverly Swamp, and was a



bachelor when he first arrived in the Township. "He afterwards earned great prominence and popularity in the community by his creditable participation in public affairs" (Historical Atlas) and appears to have been something of a role model for younger men. A.B. Sherk describes him as "the successful farmer, the shrewd financier and the honorable business man. He was admired for his ready wit and cutting sarcasm" (WHS1915 3:18). According to D.N. Panabaker "it is said he maintained his tall and erect manly bearing to the end. When quite an old man, he delighted to associate with men of the younger and active generation, discussing with them the vital questions of the day, and taking a deep interest in the enterprises of his juniors. He acquired a snug little fortune, and had the capacity to handle it up to the time of his death" (WHS1921 9:166). He was a school commissioner in 1843 (WHS1979). He is buried in the Blair Cemetery (WHS)/Preston Community Cemetery (WHS1964 52:32)

\* According to Otto Klotz, he became one of the wealthiest of the early settlers and one of the most respected (WHS1972). He operated or leased a sawmill in Chicopee with Joshua S. Bowman from 1865 to 1868, the latter being the active party (WHS1918 6:22).

\* His first four children died of cholera in 1813. His son Isaac became the first MPP for Waterloo South.

**Sources:** Historical atlas; Eby #1730; WHS1929 17:125; WHS1913 1:11; WHS1921 9:164; WHS1955 43:24; WHS1964 52:32; WHS1915 3:18; WHS1921 9:166; WHS1918 6:22; WHS1972 50:15; OCCA vf

# **COWAN, JAMES,**

**Township Council:** Township Councillor from 1842 to 1849, representing the Township at the District of Wellington.

**Born:** 1803 **Died:** 1900, May 22

**Family:** son of Thomas Cowan, who died in 1833

**Address:** BLB2-1/2, Clochmhor, 550 acres; Galt, "Craigielea", retired to in 1886 (Galt Reporter 28/4/1882 p1)

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Origin:** Scotland, Peeblesshire

**Migration date:** May 26, 1834 (wedding date)

**Spouse:** Helen Laing

**Children:** Thomas, 1835-1898; Isabella, 1837-1876 (m. James Deans); William, 1840-1922; Margaret, 1842-1928; James Laing, 1846-1936; Arthur B., 1847-1922; Margaret; Thomas

**Religion:** Presbyterian

**Politics:** Liberal; Conservative

**Landholdings:** BLB2-1/2

**Acres:** 550

**Locality:** Clearview

**Organizations:** Knox's Presbyterian Church, Galt

Galt Mechanics' Institute

Galt Subscription and Circulating Library

South Waterloo Agricultural Society

Galt Foundry and Machine Works

Cowan and Co., Galt

**Notes:** Member of Parliament from 1860 to 1867. In 1858 he ran against George Alexander in the Gore District as a Reformer, but lost the election. In 1860 he won the election for Reformers against Jacob Hespeler, and again in 1863 over William Robinson. In 1867, Cowan's name was substituted on the ticket by James Young. Cowan was nominated by the Conservatives, but Young won the election regardless. Cowan was a supporter of Mr Durand, a Reform candidate, but later developed a growing disaffection for George

Brown and a growing admiration for John A. Macdonald.

\* Bought BLB2-1 in 1834 from Isaac Master for 475 pounds and 5 shillings dower money. He imported improved breeds of sheep such as the Leicesters, Shropshires and Cheviots, and raised short-horned cattle. Cowan was the first man in this area to plant a ten-acre field of potatoes.

\* He helped organize the Galt Subscription and Circulating Library in 1836 and was one of three vice presidents of the Galt Mechanics Institute when it was formed in 1853.

\* He supported Rev. John Bayne in the formation of Knox's Presbyterian Church during the Disruption. He was made a member of that church in 1855, and was subsequently session clerk, an office he held until he died. He said he would rather be a trustee than an elder "because I could manage the siller better."

\* Cowan was first vice president of the Agricultural Society of the County of Waterloo, founded in 1853 and forerunner of the South Waterloo Agricultural Society. He was one of two representatives sent to Hamilton in 1846 to help form the Provincial Agricultural Association and Board of Agriculture for Canada West.

\* In 1853, Cowan bought an interest in the agricultural implement manufacturing firm of Lutz and Cook, which became Lutz and Cowan when Cook was killed in the foundry. When the business was sold to Cameron and Co., Cowan retained an interest, and when Cameron died in 1879 the foundry became Cowan and Co. Though James was the senior partner, his sons managed the foundry.

\* Later he became a Dominion Arbitrator during the Macdonald administration and then Dominion Referee, settling more than 1500 cases in one year. He was acclaimed for his

even-handed justice. He opined that credit and whiskey were the curse of the country, and he paid cash for everything.

\* From the interview when he was 97: "he points with pride to his efforts towards funding the clergy reserve and municipal grant for school purposes in his township. He has had to do with all notable public enterprises of the district, including the first railway into Galt. The herculean, though futile efforts he put forth to create Galt the County Town will never be forgotten." Galt citizens put up \$600 to send Cowan and Absalom Shade to Montreal to "interview the government" and help Galt in its cause (Uttley)

Sources: WHS1966 54:8 with photo; Galt Reporter 28/4/1882p1; KPL vf watco cb; photo in Wilson, p. 24, under Galt Foundry and Machine Works; interview with him in the Galt Daily Reformer, 21/12/1899 p8

#### **ERB, ABRAHAM,**

**Township Council:** Tax Collector in 1822, 1823.

**Born:** 1772, July 12 **Died:** 1830, Sept 6

**Family:** 4th son of Christian and Maria Scherch, younger brother of John Erb

**Address:** GCT, Lots 14 and 15, 900 acres; 172 King St S. ("the Kumpf House"), one of the first houses in Waterloo: Erb bought the property in 1805, and later built a house

**Occupation:** Miller

**Origin:** PA, Lancaster County

**Migration date:** 1806

**Spouse:** Magdalena Erb

**Children:** Benjamin (died at age 7); adopted Barnabas Devitt; adopted Rachel Vincent/Winson (m. Jacob Bomberger)

**Religion:** Mennonite

**Landholdings:** Bought 900 acres in 1805 (WHS1957 45:60); bought lots 14, 15, 27, 29, 55, 69, 77, 102, 135, 152 of the GCT: numbers 1-128 were farms of 448 acres, all other numbers were 83 acre farms (WHS1934 22:91)

**Locality:** Waterloo

**Organizations:** Union Mills, Waterloo

**Notes:** Founder of Waterloo. He built a sawmill a few years following his arrival in 1806, and a flour mill in 1816. The mill was later sold to Jacob C. Snider. In 1828 Erb sold five and a half acres to the Township of Waterloo for a school for the price of five pounds and left a legacy a year later for educational purposes. Erb's unwillingness to sell his land is said to have slowed the growth of Waterloo. His widow later married Benjamin Eby.

**Sources:** Eby #2834; WHS1957 45:60; WHS1934 22:91

#### **ERB, SAMUEL,**

**Township Council:** One of two Assessors in 1822-Daniel Snider was the other

**Born:** 1792, Jan. 4 **Died:** 1878, June 26

**Family:** eldest son of John and Magdalena Schrantz

**Address:** The farm, later owned by Israel Snider was 2 miles SE of Berlin (Centreville); Later the family moved to Norwich, Oxford County, where Samuel died.

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Origin:** PA, Lancaster Co

**Migration date:** 1805

**Spouse:** Mary Lewis

**Children:** John L.; Nancy Ann (m. John Emery); Samuel L.; Margaret (m. Titus G.S. Nevills); Abraham L.; Joseph L.; William L.; Nelson L.; Jared L.; Henry L.; Levi L.

**Religion:** Mennonite

**Landholdings:** GCT45/GCT30/GCT5E in 1831

**Locality:** Centreville

**Organizations:** Canada Museum und Allgemeine Zeitung

**Notes:** Samuel (or son S.L.?) established a sawmill and woodenware mill on Beaver Creek near Erbsville in 1845 (WHS1918 6:20). He also signed a petition in 1848, requesting that a township hall be built in Berlin, and contributed money to the foundation of the Canada Museum in 1835.

**Sources:** 1851 census; Eby #2781; WHS1918 6:20; WHS1962 51:54



**LUTZ, DANIEL,****Township Council:** Clerk 1829; Assessor 1842;**"In 1830 Daniel Lutz was appointed"****Born:** 1798? **Died:** 1870?**Family:** brother to Jacob**Occupation:** Weaver**Origin:** Philadelphia**Migration date:** 1820**Spouse:** Deborah Bolton**Children:** Rebecca (m. John Wildfong); Jacob;  
Susan; Harriet (m. Benjamin Jahn); Lydia (m.

Jacob Bebbler); Daniel

**Religion:** Tunker**Landholdings:** BBF16**Locality:** Freeport Strasburg**Notes:** In 1823 Samuel Bricker sold 38 acres of lot 1, Bricker's Lot, to Daniel Lutz; also in 1823, 49 acres of BBF16 were sold to Lutz (WHS1934 22:119); according to Eby, a Daniel Lutz settled a little below Strasburg in Biehn's Tract. Later went to Flamboro where kept a hotel, but returned to Strasburg at the end of life.

\* Candidate for School Commissioner in 1841 (Snyders p.84)

**Sources:** Wellington minutes; WHS1934 22:119; Snyders; Eby #4271**SHERK, SAMUEL,****Township Council:** Assessor in 1823 with

Jacob Bock

**Born:** 1792, April 19 **Died:** 1874**Family:** Son of John and Elizabeth/nephew and stepson of Joseph, who married his brother's wife**Address:** E side of the Grand River about two miles S of Breslau (Eby)**Occupation:** Farmer**Origin:** PA, Franklin County**Migration date:** 1800/settled near Breslau in 1815 (WHS1920 8:137)**Spouse:** Magdalena Break**Children:** Elizabeth (m. Henry Simmons); Eli; Levi; Samuel, Rev.; Adam; John; Amos; Abraham, Rev.; David B., Rev.; Christian, Rev.**Religion:** Tunker**Locality:** Breslau**Notes:** In 1866 he moved near Caledonia, Kent County, Michigan**Sources:** Eby #5598; WHS1920 8:137

## PART B: WATERLOO TOWNSHIP COUNCILLORS: 1850-1972

from	to	name	yrs	ryrs	born	died	religion	occupation	land	acres	locality
1850	1850	Bowman, Jonathan B.	1	1	1792	1876	Universalist	Farmer	WT9E	200	Bloomingtondale
1850	1852	Davidson, George	3		1812	1881	Presbyterian	Farmer/Business	BT10/12	288	New Aberdeen
1850	1864	Eby, Elias	1		1810	1878	Mennonite	Miller (1851)	GCT71	160	Bridgeport
1850	1852	Snider, Elias	3	1	1815	1890	Mennonite	Grist mill	BET/GCT7/GCT12/GCT	688	German Mills
1850	1858	Snider, Henry	8		1811	1877	Mennonite	Farmer/miller	WTOxbow	275	Bloomingtondale
1851	1861	Clemens, Isaac	11	7	1815	1880	Methodist	Farmer	BLB1-8/9	200	Maple Grove
1851	1860	Shantz, Samuel	8		1811	1892	Mennonite	Farmer	GCT39	241	Elmdale
1852	1853	Scott, John	2	2	1814	1856	Swedenborgian	Physician	Berlin		Berlin
1853	1855	Peddar, Thomas	3		1805	c187	Baptist	Farmer	BOS8-W	105	English
1854	1857	Snyder, Daniel	5		1797	1884	Mennonite?	Merchant	GCT51		Waterloo
1856	1856	Hassan, James	1		1809	1886	RCatholic	Farmer	GCT98	78	New Germany
1856	1858	Henderson, Thomas	3		1811	1892	Presbyterian	Farmer	BNS2E	100	English
1858	1860	Devitt, Barnabas	3		1807	1891	Mennonite	Farmer/Miller	GCT9	128	Bridgeport
1859	1861	Bowman, Wendell	3	1	1806	1876	UBrethren	Farmer	BOS3/4	42	Blair
1859	1860	Erb, Cyrus	2		1831	1916	Mennonite	Miller	GCT114	160	Breslau
1861	1863	Bowers, Cyrus	3	1	1816	1889	Mennonite	Farmer	GCT19	140	Elmdale
1861	1862	Burkholder, Daniel	2		1812	1891	Mennonite	Farmer	GCT72 GCT125	224	Bridgeport
1861	1869	Erb, Ephraim B.	9	6	1829	1911	Mennonite	Commission	GCT46-NR	109	Breslau
1861	1863	Martin, Samuel D.	3	1	1820	1903	Mennonite	Farmer License	BBF23/26?	50	Pine Grove
1862	1878	McNally, Henry	14	5	1824	1908	Mennonite	Farmer	BOS11	154	Blair
1863	1871	Erb, John L.	7		1818	1878	Methodist	Farmer	GCT45	218	Erbsville
1864	1868	Henry, William	5		1811	1880	Christian	Farmer	GCT91	160	Kossuth
1864	1895	Quickfall, Richard M.	2		1833	1910	Methodist	Farmer	GCT6E	224	Bridgeport
1864	1869	Randall, George	6		1832	1908	Presbyterian	Contractor	GCT19/GCT20/GCT21	263	Elmdale
1869	1872	Clemens, Joel	4	1	1821	1905	Mennonite	Farmer	BBF21	168	Maple Grove
1870	1874	Betzner, Jacob S.	5	2	1838	1899	Mennonite	Farmer	GCT106	210	Shantz Station
1870	1870	Snider, Jacob S.	1		1819	1907	Mennonite	Farmer	GCT67S	218	Bloomingtondale
1871	1871	Brubacher, Henry S.	1		1824	1893	Mennonite	Farmer	GCT57	473	Breslau west
1872	1872	Burkholder, Isaac E.	1		1841	1872	UBrethren	Farmer	GCT72	224	Bloomingtondale
1872	1873	Eshelman, Moses	2		1824	1912	UBrethren	Farmer Agent	BOS9	199	Blair
1872	1872	Shantz, Isaac E.	1		1839	1908	Mennonite	Merchant			Bridgeport
1872	1878	Woolner, Isaac H.	7		1824	1896	Mennonite	Farmer	GCT46	179	Nine Pines
1873	1876	Kribs, Lewis	4	1	1829	1908	Presbyterian	Contractor/bui	BLB3-8/13	125	Hespeler
1873	1874	Stauffer, Levi	2		1839	1909	UBrethren	Farmer/Insuran	GCT33	211	Rummelhardt
1874	1874	Wismer, Moses E.	1		1846	1921	Mennonite	Farmer	GCT54/BET	163	Centreville
1875	1879	Halter, Edward	5	1	1834	1917	RCatholic	Farmer	GCT82/GCT83	168	New Germany
1875	1876	Kraft, Moses	2		1833	1907	Mennonite	Farmer/Stock	GCT112	272	Bridgeport
1877	1891	Groh, Isaac	8	5	1829	1901	Mennonite	Farmer	BLB3-6/7/11;	195	Clearview
1877	1883	Kraft, Aaron	7		1835	1897	Mennonite	Farmer/Miller	GCT42	231	Rummelhardt
1879	1885	Snider, Tilman B.	7	2	1850		None	Farmer/miller/	BET	230	German Mills
1879	1879	Snyder, Benjamin S.	1		1835	1911	Mennonite	Farmer	WT6/7/Oxbow	224	Bloomingtondale
1880	1887	Shafer, William	8		1839		Evangelical	Farmer	GCT20 SW	200	Elmdale
1880	1886	Snider, Josiah	7	1	1851	1922	Mennonite	Farmer/drover	WT6/7	267	Bloomingtondale
1884	1890	Phin, James P.	7	4	1841	1901	Methodist (New	Farmer	BLB3-13	400	Hespeler
1884	1892	Shantz, Tilman S.	8	2	1850	1913	Evangelical	Farmer/breeder	GCT9 NE	128	Martin's
1886	1894	Mitchell, William	3		1842	1909	Presbyterian	Farmer	GCT30	150	Erbsville
1887	1887	Snyder, William	1		1849	1937	UBrethren	Farmer	GCT67 GCT71	110	Bloomingtondale
1888	1894	McKay, John Finlay	7		1847	1924	Methodist	Farmer/stock	GCT77	156	Bloomingtondale
1888	1891	Shoemaker, Alexander	4		1836	1908	Mennonite	Farmer	GCT19/36	224	Nine Pines
1888	1895	Sipes, John Nelson	7	3	1842	1928	Mennonite (AR	Farmer	BOS4	291	Blair
1891	1903	Koehler, Louis	8	2	1845	1931	Lutheran	Farmer	GCT43/44	123	Rummelhardt
1892	1893	Cowan, William	2		1840	1922	Presbyterian	Veterinary	BLB3-2	275	Clearview
1892	1894	Shoemaker, David M.	3		1839	1920	Swedenborgian	Saw and grist	GCT48	146	Nine Pines
1894	1898	Hagey, Joseph B.	5	2	1848	1924	Mennonite	Farmer	GCT126	200	Riverbank
1895	1898	Hertel, Herman	5		1849	1922	Mennonite	Building	GCT54	20	Centreville
1895	1899	Weber, Noah	5	1	1835	1925	NMennonite	Farmer/miller	BT7	267	Strasburg
1896	1901	Schaefer, Frederic	6	2	1849	1944	Lutheran	Blacksmith	GCT114		Breslau
1899	1920	Jansen, August	14	3	1849	1933	RCatholic	Farmer	GCT54	105	Centreville



from	to	name	yrs	ryrs	born	died	religion	occupation	land	acres	locality
1900	1905	Amos, John	6	2	1858	1919	Presbyterian	Farmer	GCT151	83	Doon
1900	1907	Reist, Owen	8	2	1866	1931	Methodist	Veterinary	GCT89	280	Kossuth
1902	1909	Shantz, Samuel E.	8	2	1859	1938	Methodist	Farmer	GCT50/GCT47	227	German Mills
1902	1919	Snyder, Joseph S.	8		1851	1931	Mennonite	Farmer	WT9	200	Bloomingtondale
1905	1911	Stauffer, Josiah S.	7	2	1864	1925	UBrethren	Farmer	GCT33	180	Rummelhardt
1906	1913	Abra, Joseph	8	2	1849	1927	Presbyterian	Farmer	BNS6	100	Doon
1908	1917	Hallman, Abraham C.	9	2	1858	1918	Mennonite	Farmer/breeder	GCT106/107	161	Breslau
1908	1915	Shaw, William Cowan	8	2	1855	1942	Presbyterian	Farmer	BLB3-7/8	170	Hespeler
1912	1919	Groff, Amos M.	6		1868	1948	Mennonite	Farmer	GCT7/GCT9	151	Martin's/Lexington
1914	1926	Veitch, Robert J.	10	1	1865	1943	Presbyterian	Farmer	BNS6/7	149	Roseville
1916	1917	Willson, Ephraim	2		1862	1950	Methodist	Farmer	GCT37-E	224	Elmdale
1916	1935	Wood, James R.	4		1876	1935	Presbyterian	Farmer	BBF23-26	178	Preston/Maple
1918	1937	Kinzie, Simon	14	9	1866	1940	Mennonite	Farmer	GCT116	140	Breslau
1918	1923	Snyder, Menno S.	6		1860	1928	Mennonite	Farmer	WT11	131	Bloomingtondale
1920	1929	Shoemaker, Allen	10	3	1866	1945	Presbyterian	Farmer/tile	GCT19/GCT48	215	Nine Pines
1921	1931	Hallman, Irvin C.	11	2	1874	1962	Methodist	Farmer	GCT32	211	Rummelhardt
1924	1933	Groh, Christian	10	2	1864	1946	Methodist	Farmer	BLB3-6/7/11	195	Hespeler
1925	1925	Latsch, George W.	1		1873	1956	UBrethren	Farmer/veterin	BOS12	138	Centreville
1926	1931	Klein, Frank A.	6		1879	1957	RCatholic	Farmer	GCT98	82	New Germany
1927	1932	Tilt, William W.	6		1888	1932	Prot	Drover with	Blair	21	Blair
1930	1933	Moser, Charles W.	4		1868	1961	RCatholic	Farmer	GCT35	178	Elmdale
1932	1943	Weber, Lorne B.	12	6	1900	1986	Evangelical	Farmer	GCT8	111	Waterloo
1934	1939	Abra, John William	6		1880	1947	Presbyterian	Farmer	BNS6	100	Roseville
1934	1938	Steckle, John	5		1889	1981	Mennonite	Farmer/Breeder	BET	176	Williamsburg
1936	1948	Ellis, Carl	13	4	1895	1965	United	Farmer	BLB2-10	230	Maple Grove
1938	1944	Hachborn, Arthur	7		1891	1964	Missionary,	Farmer	GCT67	300	Victoria
1939	1939	Scheifele, Alvin	1		1878	1971	United	Farmer	GCT34	209	Rummelhardt
1940	1947	Cowan, Robert E.	5	1	1870	1961	Presbyterian	Farmer	BLB3-8	275	Galt Clearview
1940	1942	Johannes, Lorne	3		1902	1984	Baptist	Blacksmith	Blair		Blair
1943	1951	Klie, Leslie C.	7		1887	1969	Evangelical	Farmer	GCT125	130	Bridgeport
1943	1945	Moss, Irvin	3		c190	1973	Mennonite by	Foreman	GCT53		Centreville
1945	1971	Janzen, Henry	7		1915		Baptist	Plant nursery	GCT107	166	Shantz Station
1945	1951	Schnarr, Edward	7	3	1888	1952	RCatholic	Farmer	GCT45/GCT44	198	Erbsville
1946	1963	Johannes, James N	12	5	1900	1989	Baptist	Auctioneer	Blair		Blair
1946	1947	Snider, Harold Jacob	2		1911	1981	UBrethren	Farmer/storekp	GCT67	108	Bloomingtondale
1947	1947	Bowman, Leslie F.,	1		1908	1974	United	Cashier			Sunnyside
1948	1952	Eagle, Arthur W.	5		1911	1963	Lutheran	Metal worker			Preston
1948	1951	King, Arthur Case	3		1893	1972	Salvation Army	Rubber worker			Sunnyside
1950	1963	Rickert, Clayton	11	2	1902	1991	Lutheran	Farmer	GCT72/73	97	Breslau
1952	1964	Burton, Leonard E.	12	4	1898	1964	United	Farmer	GCT93	100	Kossuth
1952	1972	Isley, Theodore Henry	10	9	1912		RCatholic	Farmer/breeder	GCT106	141	Shantz Station
1952	1954	Schlueter, Lorne	3		1915	1975	Lutheran	Farmer	GCT47		Williamsburg
1953	1957	Zinger, Joseph A.	5		1918		RCatholic	Farmer	GCT80/GCT79; 145	145	Maryhill
1954	1961	Moyer, Herbert R.	8		1911		United	Farmer	BBF19/20/30	129	Preston
1955	1963	Snider, Kenard	9		1894	1977	Mennonite	Farmer	BOS12/BET	119	Pine Grove
1959	1969	Kennedy, Arthur	10		1915	1979	RCatholic	Farmer Trucker	GCT77	98	Victoria
1962	1963	Wills, John R.	2		1915	1981		Manager			Lexington
1964	1967	James, Quentin	4					Manager			Centreville
1964	1965	Randall, John A.	2		1916	1970	United	Farmer	GCT106	116	Shantz Station
1964	1967	Schneider, Herbert J.	4		1926		Swedenborgian	Manager			Pine Grove
1968	1972	Knechtel, Cranson	5		1929		Lutheran	Wholesale groc			Elmdale
1968	1972	Voisin, Edward	5		1938		RCatholic	General store			Breslau
1970	1972	Prange, Roy	3		1933		Lutheran	Pump business			Breslau
1972	1972	Mounstephen, John	1		1919		Anglican	Manager			Lexington

Note: Summarized from detailed biographical database of all councillors and officials, compiled from township records and other primary and secondary sources, including oral history tapes and interviews. The table gives start and end dates of council services, number of years on council (yrs) and as reeve (ryrs), vital dates, land owned (land) and acreage of farmers, and school section localities.

**PROFILES OF WATERLOO TOWNSHIP  
COUNCILLORS, 1850-1972:**

**ABRA, JOHN WILLIAM,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1934, 1935,

1936, 1937; Deputy Reeve 1938, 1939

**Years:** 6

**Born:** 1880, March 29 **Died:** 1947, July 29

**Family:** son of Joseph Abra and Helen Wallace

**Address:** BNS6 farm near Roseville; moved to  
Ayr Jan. 1947

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Spouse:** Christena Welsh

**Children:** none

**Religion:** Presbyterian; United

**Landholdings:** BNS6

**Acres:** 100

**Locality:** English Settlement

**Organizations:** Knox United Church, Ayr

New Dundee Co-operative Creamery Ltd

South Waterloo Agricultural Society

**Notes:** J.W. Abra spent practically all his lifetime on the farm where he was born, and was described as "successful and prominent" (obit). He was one of the oldest members of the New Dundee Co-operative Creamery Ltd and a member of the Board of Directors for many years, including 1933. He was a director of the South Waterloo Agricultural Society (and elected president for 1947) and served on the Board of Managers of Knox United Church in Ayr. He was buried in Blair Cemetery.

**Sources:** Obit in Ayr News 31/7/1947p18; photo OCCA ph oversize #4553

**ABRA, JOSEPH,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909; Deputy Reeve 1910, 1911; Reeve 1912, 1913

**Years:** 8 **R-years:** 2

**Born:** 1849, Nov. 24 **Died:** 1927, April 14

**Family:** son of Elizabeth Wismer and William Abra

**Address:** Doon, BNS6; Roseville

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Spouse:** Helen Wallace

**Children:** John William; Mrs William Little; Mrs Edwin Taylor

**Religion:** Presbyterian

**Landholdings:** BNS6

**Acres:** 100

**Locality:** English Settlement

**Organizations:** Doon Presbyterian Church

**Notes:** Born on town line between Waterloo and Dumfries near Roseville, lived most of life in Waterloo Township. He moved to the Doon farm in 1874, so isn't mentioned in the 1871 census. Tax collector for the township from 1900-1903, and first elected to the council in 1906 by acclamation.

\* Moved into Doon in 1917 - buried in Blair cemetery

**Sources:** HA; Eby #8239; short obit in Galt Evening Reporter p3; photo in 100 years, p27

**AMOS, JOHN,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903; Reeve 1904, 1905

**Years:** 6 **R-years:** 2

**Born:** 1858 **Died:** 1919, Jan 1

**Address:** Doon, where he lived for 35 years

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Origin:** Puslinch Tp

**Spouse:** Janet Orr

**Children:** Margaret; Mrs L.C. Bullock

**Religion:** Presbyterian

**Landholdings:** GCT151

**Acres:** 83

**Locality:** Plains

**Organizations:** New Dundee Co-operative Creamery Ltd

**Notes:** Known as a successful farmer and a progressive municipal administrator. He was one of the arbiters, with John Master and the Inspector of Public Schools, of the site of the new Rosebank School, SS 8, Wilmot Township c.1908 (WHS1966 54:70).

\* In 1908, one of first directors of New Dundee Co-operative Creamery Ltd

\* At his death, he held the position of Assessor. He died after a lingering illness and just before his death had sold his farm. Buried in Doon cemetery

**Sources:** WHS1966 54:70; obit on front page of Kitchener News Record 3/1/1919



**BETZNER, JACOB S.,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1870, 1871;

First Deputy Reeve 1872; Reeve 1873, 1874

**Years:** 5 **R-years:** 2

**Born:** 1838, August 11 **Died:** 1899, April 3

**Family:** Son of Samuel B. Betzner and Elizabeth Stauffer

**Address:** Breslau, GCT106

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Spouse:** Lydia Snyder

**Children:** Minnie; Eliza; also 3rd dau according to Berlin News obit

**Religion:** Mennonite

**Landholdings:** GCT106

**Acres:** 210

**Locality:** Shantz Station

**Organizations:** North Waterloo Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Co. - director

**Notes:** Buried in Breslau Mennonite Cemetery after death from a paralytic stroke. Obit: "one of the country's best known and highly respected citizens"

**Sources:** 1871 census; Eby #922; very short obit in Galt Reporter 6/4/1899; short obit in Berlin News Record 3/4/1899 p1

**BOWERS, CYRUS,**

**Township Council:** Deputy Reeve 1861; Reeve 1862; Councillor 1863

**Years:** 3 **R-years:** 1

**Born:** 1816, Sept. 27 **Died:** 1889, Oct. 19

**Family:** eldest son of Samuel and Lydia Sauers

**Address:** South-west of Berlin on the place known as "The Sweet Briar Farm"/John St and Foundry, Berlin in 1884

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Origin:** Northumberland Co, PA (Eby)/Lancaster Co PA (obit)

**Migration date:** when 9 yrs old, c1825

**Spouse:** Elizabeth Eby; Elizabeth Craft

**Children:** Rev. John E.; Jacob E.; Solon E.; Matilda C. (m. Dr. Aaron Eby); Joseph C.; Maria C. (m. Peter E. Shantz); Malinda C. (m. E.R. Bollert)

**Religion:** Mennonite

**Politics:** Reformer

**Landholdings:** GCT19

**Acres:** 140

**Locality:** Nine Pines

**Organizations:** North Waterloo Reform

Association - president

Waterloo Mutual Fire Insurance Co. - director

Mercantile Fire Insurance Co. - director

**Notes:** "Giving early indications of more than ordinary talent, his father gave him what was then considered a first class education...Mr Bowers always took a lively interest in all the political movements of the day, and although not conspicuous as a politician, yet his views and opinions had great weight in controlling the course of the party with which he sided. His judgments were as a rule without a fault, and so well were his advices and counsels given to parties who came to him for advice that he enjoyed the esteem and high consideration of his numerous friends" (Eby)

\* "from the earliest history of this

locality, he has been a great friend of education, and proved the faith that was in him by giving his children very much more than the educational advantages [he had], and it is pleasant to be able to state that in each case they were turned to good account. Deceased was himself a great reader of standard works, and was probably as well informed on general matters as any man in the county" (obit). Bowers was one of the sources quoted by Pearce on county schools prior to 1914 (WHS1914 2:42)

**Sources:** 1871 census; Eby #1147; obit Dumfries Reformer 24/10/1889 p8.



**BOWMAN, JONATHAN B.,**

**Township Council:** Councillor on Wellington District Council from 1842-1849 with James Cowan; Reeve in 1850

**Years:** 1   **R-years:** 1

**Born:** 1792, Nov 25   **Died:** 1876, April 1

**Family:** eldest son of Mary Baer and Rev. Joseph Baumann who was said to be "a good man, and his sermons always made a deep impression upon the audiences" (Eby)

**Address:** Near Blair in 1842 (WHS1925 13:43). Then WT9E, land given by his father-in-law, Jacob Schneider (WHS1969 57:46), on east bank of the Grand River about 2 miles north of Bloomingdale on County Road 13, 200 acres (Schweitzers); later the farm was owned by Joseph S. Snyder. In 1849 John Wissler sold land from Block 3 (Woolwich Tp) to Jonathan B. Bowman. In 1862 Jonathan Bowman sold 170 acres to Noah Bowman, the farm that later belonged to C.D. Bowman (WHS1946 34:21 but no lot or concession numbers given). Maybe his move north explains why he was only reeve for one year, though he was back in Waterloo Township signing a petition in 1856.

**Occupation:** Farmer; Magistrate (1851 census)

**Origin:** PA, Berks County

**Migration date:** 1816

**Spouse:** Mary (Polly) Schneider, daughter of Jacob and Mary Erb

**Children:** Mary (m. Isaac Wenger); Noah S.; John S.; Jacob S.; Samuel S.; Salome S. (m. George H. Clemens); Levi S.; Joshua S.; Menno S.

**Religion:** Universalist

**Landholdings:** WT9E; Land from "Yoch" (father-in-law) through his wife Polly whom he married in 1817. Also in Feb. 11, 1847 bought 352 acres in GCT73 Woolwich Township from John Wissler; Dec. 14, 1850 bought 82.5 acres in Wm. Allan's Survey Lot A, east of the Grand River, Woolwich Township, from Cushman Smith (Schweitzers, p146, photo)

**Acres:** 200

**Locality:** Bloomingdale

**Organizations:** Waterloo Saugeen Railway  
Lexington Universalist Church

**Notes:** In 1850, when Wellington District was organized as the County of Waterloo, Elias Snider and J.B. Bowman were the township councillors. (Uttley p. 30) Bowman assisted in building the first township hall on North Queen Street, Berlin. He served on the Education Committee and on the Committee on Roads and Bridges (Schweitzers). Resigned from office in 1850 (Uttley, p30) and was given an engraved silver snuff box that is now at Doon Heritage Crossroads. Bowman was among the petitioners for the Waterloo Saugeen Railway in 1856. Doon Pioneer Village was presented with a portrait of him in 1967. In 1846 his son John took over farm operations, and towards the end of their lives, Jonathan and Mary lived with their son Samuel on a farm near Winterbourne, along the Waterloo Township line. A tribute to Bowman in March 1850 reads "His honesty and his sincerity are transparent. The esteem in which he is held secures him attention" (Byerly).

**Sources:** Wellington minutes; 1851 census; WHS1946 34:21; Eby #207; Schweitzers; Uttley

**BOWMAN, LESLIE F., "BUD",**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1947; Clerk in 1948 after P.A. Snider resigned, then clerk/treasurer 1949, 1950, 1951

**Years:** 1

**Born:** 1908, April 3   **Died:** 1974, Oct 11

**Family:** son of Dilman S. and Catherine Baer

**Address:** Gananoque

**Occupation:** Cashier

**Spouse:** Mabel Irene Clark

**Children:** Nancy Elizabeth (m. Robert Matthews); Susan Leslie; William Bruce

**Religion:** United

**Locality:** Sunnyside?

**Notes:** Educated at Kitchener, London, Manitoulin Island

\* Cashier for Coca Cola bottling and distribution branch in Kitchener before served Township as clerk

\* 1952 - left for Gananoque where credited with introducing town planning and convincing town to hire professional consultants (obit Gananoque Reporter)

\* 1970 - moved to Brockville regional assessment office before retiring in 1973

**Sources:** Robert V. Eby; obit Gananoque Reporter 16/10/1974p4; KWR photo of inaugural

1950 meeting

**BRUBACHER, HENRY S.,**
**Township Council:** Councillor 1871

**Years:** 1

**Born:** 1824, Feb. 12 **Died:** 1893, March 5

**Family:** Son of John Brubacher and Catharine

Serk who had 15 children

**Address:** Berlin east, GCT57

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Spouse:** Mary Musselman

**Children:** Magdalena (m. Martin Weber);

Esther (m. Moses M. Weber); Susannah; Mary;

Isaac M.; Henry M.; Joseph M.; Solomon M.;

Catharine (m. Noah Weber); John M.

**Religion:** Mennonite

**Landholdings:** GCT57

**Acres:** 473

**Locality:** Breslau west

**Notes:** Soon after his marriage in 1852 he moved on his father's old homestead east of Berlin where he had been born. He was a farmer for most of his life, though his obituary notes that for some years he was engaged or had an interest in certain enterprises in the town. He is described as having a "kindly disposition" and being a "whole-hearted genial resident" (obit). He was buried in the Old Mennonite Cemetery.

**Sources:** Eby #1412; obit Berlin Daily

Telegraph 6/3/1893p3

**BURKHOLDER, DANIEL,**
**Township Council:** Councillor 1861, 1862

**Years:** 2

**Born:** 1812, August 26 **Died:** 1891, April

11

**Family:** Son of Christian and Elizabeth

Burkholder, brother of Benjamin Burkholder

**Address:** After marriage in 1834 lived near

Bloomingdale and pioneered on GCT72 (this

property minus some severances, 224 acres, to

son Moses in 1863); in 1846 they moved to his

father's farm, one mile north of Waterloo,

GCT13; in 1856 they moved to a farm on

GCT125 one mile north of Bridgeport (later

Dilman Moyer's); after 1881 when his first wife

died, he and his second wife moved to

Bridgeport in the home of the late David Erb.

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Origin:** PA, Lancaster County

**Migration date:** 1818

**Spouse:** Elizabeth Erb; Sarah Erb Tohman

**Children:** Moses; Susannah (m. Jesse B.

Snyder); Isaac B.; Mary Ann (m. Amos Erb);

Nancy; Daniel; Ezra; Elizabeth (m. Henry

Erb); Louisa (m. Elijah Bricker)

**Religion:** Mennonite

**Landholdings:** GCT72; GCT125, one mile north

of Bridgeport (Tremaine 1861)

**Acres:** 224

**Locality:** Bridgeport

**Notes:** He signed a petition in 1848 for the

erection of a township hall in Berlin

(WHS1970 58:86)

**Sources:** Eby #1512; WHS1970 58:86

**BURKHOLDER, ISAAC E.,**
**Township Council:** Second Deputy Reeve 1872

**Years:** 1

**Born:** 1841, June 19 **Died:** 1872, Sept. 23

**Family:** second son of Daniel and Elizabeth

Erb

**Address:** Bloomingdale; GCT72, land pioneered

by parents from 1834; 224 acres sold by

father to elder brother Moses in 1863, and to

Isaac in 1870

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Spouse:** Harriet Eby

**Children:** Arthur Henry; Daniel Fairford;

Alfred; Mary Alice (m. Clinton Barkley)

**Religion:** UBrethren

**Landholdings:** GCT72

**Acres:** 224

**Locality:** Bloomingdale

**Notes:** Burkholder died (of typhoid fever, according to translation of Berliner Journal obit) while holding office at the young age of 31. The farm was sold to John Bingeman, and the widow and children moved to the United States. He was succeeded by Isaac E. Shantz for the remaining 2-3 months of 1872 (on both Township and County Councils), the only municipal service of I.E.S.

**Sources:** Eby #1520; 1871 census; Berliner

Journal obit index



**BURTON, LEONARD E.,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1952, 1953, 1956, 1957, 1964; Deputy Reeve 1954, 1958; Reeve 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963.

**Years:** 12 **R-years:** 4

**Born:** 1898 **Died:** 1964, May 29

**Family:** son of John and Ida Fischer

**Address:** RR#2, Preston/nr Hespeler, GCT93

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Origin:** Alberta

**Migration date:** c1916

**Spouse:** Dorothy Atkinson

**Children:** none

**Religion:** United

**Landholdings:** GCT93; also mother's farm

**Acres:** 100

**Locality:** Kossuth

**Organizations:** Breslau Credit Union

Breslau Co-Operative - director, president

**Notes:** Died in a car accident the evening of May 29, 1964, on Hwy 24 three miles north of Hespeler, returning from a road inspection.

The driver of the other car involved in the head-on collision was charged, and one witness said that she believed that the five men in the car had been drinking. Mr Burton was a century farm owner and township school trustee. As councillor he had held every committee chairmanship, and was chairman of the township's road committee at the time of his death. He was active in the co-op and Credit Union movement, and was a past president of Breslau Credit Union.

\* "One of the chief supporters of the new administration building...and one of the original township officials supporting area planning" (Galt Evening Reporter)

\* Recalled by Roy Prange of Prange's Pump Service for his remarkable skills with water divining in times when wells were dug rather than drilled.

**Sources:** Newspapers; KPL vf watco cb; obit Galt Evening Reporter 30/5/1964p9

**CLEMENS, ISAAC,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1851, 1852; Deputy Reeve 1853; Reeve 1854-1860 (Wendell Bowman Reeve in 1861); Councillor in 1861, but resigned 2 March 1861 and Samuel D. Martin was elected to his seat.

**Years:** 11 **R-years:** 7

**Born:** 1815, Jan 21 **Died:** 1880, Sept 24

**Family:** son of George Clemens and Esther Stauffer

**Address:** BLB1-8 - Samuel Stauffer place north of Speedsville

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Spouse:** Mary Ann Brower

**Children:** Sarah (m. John W. Martin); Mary Ann (m. James Henderson); Isaac B.

**Religion:** Methodist

**Politics:** Reformer

**Landholdings:** BLB1-8/9

**Acres:** 200

**Locality:** Maple Grove

**Organizations:**

Waterloo Tp, SS 20, Maple Grove

Berlin Grammar School Board of Trustees

**Notes:** Interesting light on the low quality of education for first generation of township children is reflected in transcribed letters 1871-1878 (per Kathryn Lamb) mainly to Isaac Master.

\* Warden of Waterloo County 1857-1860, one of the earliest trustees recorded for Maple Grove School (being largely responsible for the 1875 addition), and a member of the first board of trustees for Berlin Grammar School in 1855. Because he was deputy reeve in 1853, he was a member of the first Waterloo County Council. He was Registrar for the two years when the South Waterloo office was located at Preston, 1862-63.

\* Isaac Clemens was elected the first MPP for South Waterloo after Confederation in 1867 (when he defeated James Crombie) and was re-elected in 1871 (when his opponent was

Abraham Erb). His letters to Isaac Master contain some opinions on prohibition issue. He retired in 1875 due to ill-health and was appointed one of the License Commissioners of Waterloo South (being elected chair) a position he held to his death (obit Galt Reporter 1/10/1880p4). "He was noted for his integrity and his fine statesmanship" (WHS1955 43:25). His contemporaries called him "Honest Isaac." "Kindly straightforward man, in whom sterling honesty was a most prominent trait. Hospitable to all, the adviser of the distressed and the friend of the poor, he was very popular among those who knew him and respected by the general public" (obit).

\* Clemens' life illustrates handicaps of pioneer schools and his own respect for education. "The bringing up of [his parents'] large family under the disadvantageous circumstances of bush life was a task of no small difficulty, but the father did what he could to furnish them with the scant education which Waterloo afforded its youth in the early days of this century. Winter was the only season in which the schools were open, and in the winter seasons of his boyhood Isaac Clemens went to school under various teachers, among them the late Mr Scollick, a well known man at that time, in the old log school house which stood on the site of the present Roman Catholic Cemetery a little northeast of the corporation limits of Galt. The school served many purposes, being used for religious and other public meetings and also as a court room in which the commissioners adjudicated in civil suits. Under these circumstances a good education was not likely to be obtained by anyone, and...Isaac Clemens suffered with all his schoolmates...a considerable disadvantage in the public life into which he entered in the prime of life." Clemens's work for SS 20



(Maple Grove) in the 1870s was commended most highly by inspector Thomas Pearce. "Accommodation now very superior. Not surpassed by any Rural Section in the county. A commodious addition...and a new outfit of the most approved style of desks and furniture in both departments. Although the people of the Section generally seemed to vie with each other in pushing forward the extensive and expensive improvements of the year, yet I believe it will not be considered invidious to mention...the name of Isaac Clemens Esq., who was undoubtedly the leading spirit."

**Sources:** Eby #1738; WHS1955 43:25; Pearce's report of schools for 1875; obit Galt Reporter 1/10/1880p4

\* Transcribed letters 1871-1878 (per Kathryn Lamb) mainly to Isaac Master about political issues (electoral corruption and prohibition) and patronage appointments.

\* photo available from Archives of Ontario in WHS collection (C224-0-0-6, AO2412)

**CLEMENS, JOEL,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1869; Second Deputy Reeve in 1870, 1871; Reeve 1872

**Years:** 4 **R-years:** 1

**Born:** 1823, Dec. 18 **Died:** 1905, Aug. 11

**Family:** Son of Abraham L. Clemens and Magdalena Miller, one of ten children

**Address:** BBF21, 160 acres, north of Preston

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Spouse:** Magdalena Shoemaker, dau of Jacob S.

**Children:** Isabella; Elizabeth (m. Levi Hagey); Luanna (m. Isaac B. Clemens); Lucena (m. Urias Springer); Jacob Solon; Cornelia; Nelson Byron; Lewis Edwin; Odo Eby

**Religion:** Mennonite

**Landholdings:** BBF21

**Acres:** 168

**Locality:** Maple Grove

**Organizations:** Waterloo Tp, SS 20, Maple Grove

**Notes:** He was born on the farm he later owned and was an early trustee of Maple Grove School. The obituary in the Galt Reporter, under the headline "Preston pioneer passes away," noted that Clemens was "one of the oldest and most respected residents of Waterloo County" and had been a lifelong resident of Preston. Clemens had been ailing for some time from a paralytic stroke, and was buried in Hagey Mennonite Cemetery.

**Sources:** HA; Eby #1850; obit Galt Weekly Reporter 17/8/1905p3

**COWAN, ROBERT ELLIOTT,**

**Township Council:** Deputy Reeve 1940, 1941, 1942, 1947; Reeve 1944

**Years:** 5 **R-years:** 1

**Born:** 1870, Jan 16 **Died:** 1961, Aug 22

**Family:** son of William and Helen Elliott, brother of Thomas D.

**Address:** BLB3-8: back Hespeler Road, R.R. #3, Galt

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Spouse:** Georgina Armstrong (died 1949)

**Children:** none

**Religion:** Presbyterian

**Landholdings:** BLB3-8

**Acres:** 275

**Locality:** Galt Clearview

**Organizations:** South Waterloo Agricultural Society

Ontario Agricultural College

Knox's Presbyterian Church, Galt

North Dumfries and South Waterloo Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Co.

Galt Fall Fair

Galt Masonic Lodge

Cowan and Co., Galt

**Notes:** Cowan was educated at Clearview SS 19 (where he was later a trustee in 1903-4), and attended G.C.I. part-time from 1884 to 1887. In 1888 he entered Ontario Agricultural College where he was awarded a silver medal for general proficiency. The OAC Alumni news wrote that "he was regarded locally as a good farmer, a conscientious public servant, a beloved 'character' in South Waterloo." He was associated actively as a director and secretary/treasurer with the South Waterloo Agricultural Society for 53 years, being a member since 1895, president in 1901, secretary/treasurer in 1909 and for 39 more years, a board member since 1896, and an honorary director from 1949 when he retired. He was associated with the Galt Fall Fair for a period of 64 years and had opened the show

in 1960. He was an auditor of the township from 1925-35, and had been a member of most committees of the County Council. Cowan was director of North Dumfries and South Waterloo Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Co., and held the office of president several times. He was president of Cowan Co. of Galt Ltd and had farmed his father's (William) farm since 1890, producing beef cattle, sheep and hogs, wheat and seed grain.

\* Challenged for reeveship by Henry Janzen.

Sources: obit Evening Reporter 23/8/61p13 with photo; good photo in Burkholder p341.

# **COWAN, WILLIAM,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1892; Third Deputy Reeve 1893

**Years:** 2

**Born:** 1840 **Died:** 1922, Dec. 3

**Family:** son of James and Helen Laing

**Address:** BLB3-2 (1886 voters' list); 189 West River Road (WHS1970 58:26)

**Occupation:** Veterinary surgeon

**Spouse:** Helen, "Nellie or Ellen" Elliott

**Children:** Robert Elliott; Thomas Deans; William Laing; Elizabeth Helen; James Hastie; Isabel Cowan

**Religion:** Presbyterian

**Landholdings:** BLB3-2

**Acres:** 275

**Locality:** Clearview

**Organizations:** Galt Foundry and Machine Works

Cowan and Co., Galt

Knox's Presbyterian Church, Galt

Galt Curling Club

South Waterloo Agricultural Society

Masons- P.D.D.G.M. of Wellington district

**Notes:** Born at Clochmohr. William Cowan was one of the youngest graduates of the Ontario Veterinary College, Guelph, holding the 5th certificate issued by that body. On his death the Hespeler Herald called him "the oldest veterinary surgeon in Canada." He practiced his profession in Galt until 1881 and from then until 1896 was a Dominion Livestock Inspector. In his obituary in the Galt Reporter, William is unfavourably compared to his brother Thomas in reference to their father, James Cowan who "possessed of a superior mentality and force which showed themselves in his sons, most notably perhaps in the late Thomas Cowan, long one of the most outstanding political speakers and thinkers in Ontario."

\* Later Cowan was an owner of Galt Foundry and Machine Works with his brother Arthur,

later known as Cowan and Company. William was president of Cowan & Company when he died, being at his desk until three weeks before his death. They bought the business in 1871, but according to the Hespeler Herald, William became actively connected with the firm only in 1891 when his brother assumed the postmastership in Galt. Cowan is credited for keeping the business open in spite "of so-called financial depressions, and employment given to the full staff of mechanics" (Outlook). Cowan is quoted as saying "The town has happy and contented mechanics and men who appreciate the excellent living conditions prevalent" (Outlook). Cowan moved to Galt about the turn of the century, twenty years before his death.

\* NOTE: Nowhere in William Cowan of Clochmohr's obituary is there mention of his being elected a township councillor. His father was one, his son was one and the dates of the councillorship include the period before Cowan moved to Galt. There were many William Cowans in the Waterloo County area. A William Cowan was a Galt councillor in 1906 and a reeve of Galt in 1907, at a time when this William Cowan would have lived in Galt, but since this information was not contained in the obituaries, this might be another William Cowan. A William Cowan was a trustee of SS 19 from 1870-71; a William Cowan was re-elected in the Township of Dumfries, Ward #2, in 1863 by acclamation (Galt Reporter Jan. 9, 1863, p2c5)

**Sources:** HA; James Young; Taylor; Wilson 1897 p24 photo, if this is the correct William; Outlook Edition "The men of Waterloo County to-day" with photo; Galt Reporter 9/11/1863p2-5; WHS1970 58:26; obit 7/12/1922 in Hespeler Herald; obit 4/12/1922 Galt Evening Reporter



**DAVIDSON, GEORGE,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1850, 1851, 1852

**Years:** 3

**Born:** 1812, May 14 **Died:** 1881, April 27

**Family:** Son of John and Margaret Davidson

**Occupation:** Farmer/Businessman

**Origin:** Scotland, Aberdeen

**Migration date:** 1833

**Spouse:** Margaret Garden

**Children:** George; William; Robert; Alexander; Margaret; Elizabeth; six others who died in early childhood

**Religion:** Presbyterian

**Landholdings:** BT10/12

**Acres:** 288

**Locality:** New Aberdeen Strasburg

**Organizations:** St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Berlin

Berlin Post Office

California Block, Berlin

Waterloo Militia

St Andrew's Church, Winterbourne

Waterloo Horticultural Society

**Notes:** Davidson studied law at the University of Aberdeen for years before coming to Canada.

\* He took up 200 acres of partially cleared land at Winterbourne and in 1842 was Berlin's first postmaster in his store which he operated with his brother William.

\* He founded and named New Aberdeen about 1847, where he built a sawmill, gristmill, and store on part of his 500 acres.

\* In 1852 he returned to Berlin and bought property at King and Queen Streets where he built the California Block and Forest Hill, a 40-acre estate which was landscaped with trees and plants imported from Scotland.

\* He was appointed sheriff of Waterloo County in 1852 from 1853-1881, and commanded the 2nd battalion of the Waterloo militia for nearly 25 years after having enlisted in the 1837

Rebellion and served as a lieutenant in the Waterloo militia.

\* Davidson was a Royal Arch Mason. He was instrumental in establishing St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Berlin and St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Winterbourne. His granddaughter describes him as a man who "had many interests but did much in developing the agricultural resources of this part of Waterloo County. He was an energetic, pushing businessman, resolute, persevering and industrious, the type needed in a new county" (WHS1928 16:85)

**Sources:** WHS1928 16:84-85 with photo

**DEVITT, BARNABAS,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1858, 1859, 1860

**Years:** 3

**Born:** 1807, March 25 **Died:** 1891, Jan 20

**Family:** 4th son of Dennis Devitt

**Address:** Bridgeport; GCT9

**Occupation:** Farmer/Miller

**Origin:** New Jersey

**Migration date:** 1815/1812

**Spouse:** Magdalena Shoemaker

**Children:** Jacob; John; Benjamin; Isaac; David; Abraham; Mary (m. Jacob Wissler); Barnabas; Magdalena; Menno; Matthew; Louisa (m. Jacob Smith)

**Religion:** Mennonite

**Landholdings:** GCT9

**Acres:** 128

**Locality:** Bridgeport

**Organizations:** Bridgeport Mill  
Floradale Mills

**Notes:** Following his mother's death when he was 11 years old, Barnabas was adopted by Abraham Erb. He took over the Bridgeport mill about 1850 with Elias Eby, but sold his interest to Jacob B. Eby before 1860 and retired to the farm. In 1828 he was a witness to the deed for the first school site in Waterloo, sold by Abraham Erb. Devitt was among others who petitioned in 1832 for a road from Shoemaker's sawmill in Bridgeport to the Breslau/Woolwich road. In 1848, he was among petitioners asking for the establishment of a township hall in Berlin. In 1865 Devitt was given a contract to build a new dam in Floradale and keep it in repair for ten years. Son Benjamin became mayor of Waterloo, 1881-1883 and was father of Emma who married Louis J. Breithaupt.

\* In Waterloo, house at 172 King Street S. (photo p.45 in 100 years) is "Kumpf House" (WHS1974 62:74-5), first built by Abraham Erb and one of the oldest houses in that city



(WHS1965 53:35). Barnabas and Magdalena lived in Waterloo from their marriage in 1831 until 1851 when they moved to Bridgeport. When Barnabas sold the Bridgeport milling interest, he bought a farm that was later owned by Tilman Shantz. A few years before his death, Barnabas moved back to Waterloo.  
Sources: HA; Eby #2322; WHS1965 53:35; WHS1974 62:74-5

**EAGLE, ARTHUR W.,**  
**Township Council:** Councillor 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952  
**Years:** 5  
**Born:** 1911 **Died:** 1963, March 11  
**Family:** son of Ruben Eagle  
**Address:** 554 Frederick St, Preston-formerly lived in Waterloo Tp  
**Occupation:** Metal worker in 1949; worked for Clare Bros, and in the last 6 years of his life served as an inspector for the Ontario Department of Labor  
**Spouse:** Isabell P. Triller  
**Children:** Jean (m. Wayne Pfeffer)  
**Religion:** Lutheran  
**Locality:** Preston  
**Organizations:** St Peter's Lutheran Church, Preston  
**Notes:** Was born in Wiarton. Buried in Park Lawn Cemetery, Preston.  
**Sources:** obituary in Galt Reporter, KWR 12/3/1963p10  
\* photo KWR Jan 1950 inaugural meeting

**EBY, ELIAS,**  
**Township Council:** Councillor 1850; Treasurer 1862, 1863, 1864  
**Years:** 1  
**Born:** 1810, Feb 22 **Died:** 1878, June 2  
**Family:** Second son of Benjamin Eby and Mary Brubacher  
**Address:** Bridgeport (East Ward-Uttley p23)  
**Occupation:** Miller (1851)  
**Spouse:** Anna Weber  
**Children:** Mary; Josiah; Benjamin W.; Magdalena (m. Isaac E. Shantz); Veronica (m. Aaron E. Shantz); Annie (m. Benjamin Reesor); Elias W.; Tobias; Christian; Moses  
**Religion:** Mennonite  
**Landholdings:** GCT71  
**Acres:** 160  
**Locality:** Bridgeport  
**Organizations:** Bridgeport Mill  
Canada Museum und Allgemeine Zeitung  
Deutsch-Canadier Pressverein  
Bridgeport Post Office  
**Notes:** Was one of the first four people in Waterloo County to receive a teaching certificate in 1843. He was a teacher in one of the Berlin schools during the last few years before the opening of the Central School in 1856 and also a teacher at a Waterloo school. When the first Sunday School at First Mennonite Church was announced in the 1841 newspaper, he was one of the signers.  
\* "Lived for a number of years on the farm adjoining his father's, now occupied by the widow of the late Samuel Brubacher" (obit)  
\* In 1856 he was owner of both the Deutsche Canadier and the Canada Museum, with Patrick Clerihew as publisher and editor, and Friedrich Rittinger in charge of printing (WHS1921 9:153)  
\* Operated the Lancaster Mills, Bridgeport, in partnership with Barnabas Devitt from 1849 to 1860, then became proprietor with his

brother Jacob S. Eby, then with his son and son-in-law (obit Berlin Daily News 3/6/78). In 1869-70 Eby sold the mill to Peter Shirk and Samuel S. Snider, and in 1871 was said to be a farmer. He was Bridgeport postmaster from 1864 to 1878 and owned the post office building.

\* "We believe few men enjoyed so much respect and confidence as the deceased - and the greatest sympathy was felt for him when, chiefly through being too kind-hearted with a large army of delinquent debtors, he lost a large portion of his property" (obit Berlin Daily News)

\* "He leaves behind two sons and four daughters, who are, one in California, one in Manitoba, one in Michigan, one in Markham and two in this county--showing how families at the present day get separated" (obit)

\* Diary of years 1872-1878 translated by Isaac Horst (original in WHS, translation at MAO)

**Sources:** Eby #2435; photo from Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society per MAO; WHS1918 6:25; WHS1921 9:153; WHS1965 53:13; WHS1968 56:64; WHS1970 58:71

# **ELLIS, CARL,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942; Deputy Reeve 1943, 1944; Reeve 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948

**Years:** 13 **R-years:** 4

**Born:** 1895 **Died:** 1965, March 9

**Family:** Son of Alfred Ellis and Mary Jane Clemens

**Address:** Hespeler, RR #1

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Spouse:** Bellie Brown

**Children:** no children

**Religion:** United

**Landholdings:** BLB2-10

**Acres:** 230

**Locality:** Maple Grove

**Organizations:** South Waterloo Agricultural Society

Central Counties Guernsey Breeders

Ontario Guernsey Breeders' Association

New Hope Masonic Lodge, Hespeler, #279

Canadian Guernsey Breeders

St Luke's United Church, Hespeler

**Notes:** Owner of a century farm; president of the South Waterloo Agricultural Society. He was a Canadian Guernsey Breeder beginning in 1930, and he was a past president of Central Counties Guernsey Breeders, a past president of the Ontario Guernsey Breeders' Association, and of the Canadian Guernsey Breeders in 1959. One of his cattle won the Grand Champion (male) at the Canadian National Exhibition in 1953, and his herd had attained the highest average of a Guernsey herd in "the past two years"-(1964 and 1963?): the Ellis herd set a record from a production standpoint. Warden of Waterloo County in 1948.

**Sources:** photo from 1948 journal of proceedings and bylaws; obit Galt Reporter 10/3/1965 p7

\* Journal of proceedings and by-laws 1948

# **ERB, CYRUS,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1859, 1860

**Years:** 2

**Born:** 1831, March 1 **Died:** 1916, Dec 17

**Family:** second son of Joseph and Mary Kolb, brother to Abraham A., Joseph J., Israel K.

**Address:** Breslau; Preston

**Occupation:** Miller; Merchant

**Spouse:** Sarah Schwartz

**Children:** Mary Ann; John; Cyrus; Milton

**Religion:** Mennonite

**Landholdings:** GCT114

**Acres:** 160

**Locality:** Breslau

**Notes:** Cyrus was John Erb's grandson and inherited the Preston gristmill through his father with his three brothers. Though the Erb Brothers expanded the business, they were not a commercial success, and sold the mill to Samuel J. Cherry and John Cherry. Erb was Breslau postmaster from 1856 to 1862, establishing the first general store in Breslau in 1856 with Ephraim Erb. A founding member of the Preston Horticultural Society in 1878, he was one of Preston's oldest residents when he died.

\* A Preston councillor 1864, 1870, 1876, 1878-1881, 1890-91

**Sources:** Eby #2620; obituary in 21/12/1916 Prestonian; obit in Galt Reporter 17/12/1916 "Cyrus Erb, a Preston pioneer" concentrated on father and grandfather



**ERB, EPHRAIM B.,**  
**Township Council:** Councillor 1861, 1863;  
 Deputy Reeve 1862; Reeve 1864, 1865, 1866,  
 1867, 1868, 1869 Preston councillor  
 1883-1885.  
**Years:** 9 **R-years:** 6  
**Born:** 1829 **Died:** 1911, Jan. 18  
**Family:** son of John S. and Polly Bricker  
**Address:** Breslau  
**Occupation:** Merchant; "engaged in the  
 mercantile and milling business in  
 Breslau...thence he moved to Preston where he  
 was engaged in the dry goods and grocery  
 business" Eby. Commission merchant (1871  
 census)  
**Spouse:** Elizabeth Jane Dobbin  
**Children:** Mary Jane, "Minnie" (m. William  
 Rankine)  
**Religion:** Mennonite  
**Landholdings:** GCT46-NR  
**Acres:** 109  
**Locality:** Breslau  
**Notes:** Warden of Waterloo County 1867, and  
 was therefore an ex-officio member of the  
 Committee to find a site and erect the  
 Waterloo County House of Industry and Refuge.  
 He was Breslau postmaster from 1862-1869.  
 \* Ephraim and Cyrus Erb established the first  
 general store in Breslau in 1856, selling the  
 business in 1864 to David Bricker.  
 \* The family moved to St John, New Brunswick  
 and then to Halifax where Ephraim "was  
 engaged in the commission business." When  
 returned to Preston, left Halifax business in  
 hands of son-in-law, and visited Halifax  
 yearly. Served on Preston council in 1880s.  
**Sources:** HA; 1871 census; Eby #2813; WHS;  
 obit Berlin News Record 19/1/1911p1  
 \* photo OCCA ph#2378

**ERB, JOHN L.,**  
**Township Council:** Deputy Reeve 1863;  
 Councillor 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1869;  
 First Deputy Reeve 1870, 1871  
**Years:** 7  
**Born:** 1818, Nov. 24 **Died:** 1878, July 2  
**Family:** eldest son of Samuel and Mary Lewis  
**Address:** Erbsville, GCT45  
**Occupation:** Farmer; Postmaster  
**Spouse:** Nancy Clemens; Mary Zimmerman  
**Children:** Harriet Ann; Fernando; Clarissy  
 Novilla; William H.; John Nelson; George  
 Edward; Margaret Agnes  
**Religion:** Methodist  
**Landholdings:** GCT45  
**Acres:** 218  
**Locality:** Erbsville  
**Notes:** Erbsville postmaster from 1863-1878.  
 Episcopal Methodist  
**Sources:** Eby #2782

**ESHELMAN, MOSES,**  
**Township Council:** Councillor 1872, 1873  
**Years:** 2  
**Born:** 1824, July 26 **Died:** 1912, Feb. 10  
**Family:** youngest son of Samuel and Nancy  
 Bechtel  
**Address:** family homestead, later the Ira  
 Good farm, near Blair; later moved to 51  
 Church Street, Berlin  
**Occupation:** Farmer; Agent in Berlin, listed  
 in the Waterloo County Directory of 1884-5,  
 W.W. Evans (p.231, M. & J. Snyder)  
**Spouse:** Susannah Stauffer; Anna Kay Erb  
**Children:** Joseph; Simon; Sarah; Mary Ann (m.  
 Menno B. Clemens); Nancy Jane  
**Religion:** UBrethren  
**Landholdings:** BOS9  
**Acres:** 199  
**Locality:** Blair  
**Organizations:** Blair School  
 Blair Mills  
 Alma Street Church of the United Brethren in  
 Christ, Berlin  
**Notes:** Lived in Blair for 50 years, later  
 moving to Berlin where he "was actively  
 identified with the Alma Street United  
 Brethren Church since its inception. He was  
 one of the most highly esteemed members of  
 the congregation and had fulfilled many  
 important positions in the church" (obit) He  
 had donated upper part of the Jerry Strome lot  
 to the congregation, including a frame house  
 facing Church Street, that the congregation used  
 for a church until 1893 (Uttley).  
 \* A Blair school trustee, he converted the  
 Blair grist mill to a woollen mill in 1875  
 with Henry McNally, Angus McNally, and  
 Oliver Clemens, and was known as a  
 "progressive farmer."  
**Sources:** 1871 census; M. & J. Snyder; Eby  
 #2992; obit Berlin News Record 12/2/1912p1;  
 Uttley; WHS1924 12:101; WHS1941 29:163;  
 WHS1954 42:8



**GROFF, AMOS M.,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1918, 1919

**Years:** 6

**Born:** 1868, April 3 **Died:** 1948, Dec 23

**Family:** Son of Jacob Groff (who died 3 Nov 1920 and is buried in Martin's Cemetery) and Lydia Martin

**Address:** Renting the family homestead about a mile NE of Waterloo

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Spouse:** Mary Ann Shantz (married 1893)

**Children:** Howard; Pearl (m. Daniel Bauman); Mabel (m. Simeon Cressman) ; Nettie (m. Jacob Shantz); Vera (m. Lloyd Snider); Reta

**Religion:** Mennonite

**Landholdings:** GCT7/GCT9

**Acres:** 151

**Locality:** Martin's

**Organizations:** Cressman Mennonite Church, Breslau

**Notes:** Grandfather Andrew Groff (b.1793)

"then purchased 200 acres of land between Preston and Galt and in a few years was proprietor of a store, tavern, grist mill, saw mill and distillery. In 1848 he sold this land and purchased a farm 2 miles north of Waterloo and engaged in farming with his son Jacob, on the farm occupied by Amos Groff in the 1930s" (Roy Bauman). Martin's Cemetery records do not include an entry for Amos as they do for his father and grandfather.

\* Contender for D Reeve against more experienced August Jansen in early 1916. Jansen was condemned by Galt Reporter (6 January 1916) for alleged pro-German tendencies and un-British expression "placing himself in a position to be unworthy of a place at the County and Township Councils." Jansen "denied allegations and imputations" and, in a "keenly contested election" was returned by a majority of 66 over Amos Groff.

**Sources:** Eby #3392; Bauman; Martin's

Cemetery records; Galt Reporter 1/6/1916; obit KWR 23/12/1948 p5 with no mention of township activities

**GROH, CHRISTIAN TOBIAS,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1924, 1925, 1926; Second Deputy Reeve 1927, 1928, 1929; First Deputy Reeve 1930, 1931; Reeve 1932, 1933 Hespeler councillor 1903-1908

**Years:** 10 **R-years:** 2

**Born:** 1864, Nov 1 **Died:** 1946, June 28

**Family:** son of Isaac Groh and Mary Wanner  
**Address:** BLB3-6/7/11, on the original Groh homestead southwest of Hespeler

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Spouse:** Martha Lena Gingrich

**Children:** Percy; Howard; Almeda; Della; Mary

**Religion:** Methodist; United

**Landholdings:** BLB3-6/7/11

**Acres:** 195

**Locality:** Hespeler Clearview

**Organizations:** Hespeler Town Council

Stager Block, Hespeler

Waterloo Tp, SS 19, Clearview

Maple Grove Farmers' Club

Hespeler United Church

**Notes:** Attended Clearview School then entered milling industry at New Dundee. Shortly afterwards he returned to Clearview area and began farming.

\* An active member of the United Farmers of Ontario, he was agent for a co-operative phase of the Maple Grove Farmers' Club. When co-operative shipping of cattle began in the Clearview district in about 1915, Groh acted as shipper.

\* He built the Stager Block in Hespeler, which he sold to A. Hagmeier.

\* JP. As well as 10 years on Township Council, served 6 years on Hespeler Council (1903-1908), according to caption to photograph in Galt Reporter, 21 December 1933, when announced retirement at Wardens's banquet. Interested in public affairs and district correspondent for various newspapers, including 4 years with Dumfries Reformer and 6 years with Galt Daily

Reporter.

\* He was a trustee of SS 19 from 1901 to 1909 and secretary of school from 1891 to 1917.

\* As well as 10 years on township council, served 6 years as Hespeler councillor, according to caption to photograph in Galt Reporter, 21 December 1933, when announced retirement at Wardens's banquet.

\* Buried in Wanner Mennonite Cemetery.

Sources: Eby #3425; photo Evening Reporter 26/10/1909 when Clearview Reunion Secretary. Some details in Hespeler Herald obituary for Mrs C.T. Groh Sept. 29, 1932; his obituary in KWR and Galt Reporter (29/6/1946p4); photo Galt Reporter 21/12/1933, when announced retirement at Warden's banquet.

**GROH, ISAAC,**

**Township Council:** Councillor in 1877, 1878; First Deputy Reeve in 1879; Reeve 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1891

**Years:** 8 **R-years:** 5

**Born:** 1829, March 14 **Died:** 1901, May 14

**Family:** Grandfather was Michael, a Pennsylvania pioneer who arrived in 1804 to select a farm. Though Michael died in Pennsylvania, the rest of his family, including his son John, came to Canada. Isaac was the second youngest son of John and Susannah Wanner.

**Address:** Hespeler, 230 acres

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Spouse:** Mary Wanner

**Children:** John W.; David W.; Daniel W.; Isaac W.; Leah W.; Anson W.; Jonathan; Sylvanus W.; Christian Tobias; Susannah; Irwin

**Religion:** Mennonite

**Politics:** Reformer

**Landholdings:** BLB3-6/7/11; BLB1-7?

**Acres:** 195

**Locality:** Clearview

**Notes:** He was born on the farm he later owned. Eby claims that he was elected as reeve for the township in 1889; actually 1891 according to Tilt. "Upwards of nearly half a century Mr Groh's name has been connected with those whose object is to elevate and advance the cause of their fellow citizens" (Eby also describes him as healthy and active). With many family members, buried in Wanner Cemetery.

\* He is cited in Sutherland's Directory of 1864 as being part of a Hespeler brass band, which included apparently most of the village notables (WHS1922 10:214).

\* Land was purchased from Isaac by Waterloo Township in 1861 to widen the curve in the road leading to Hespeler (WHS1957 45:35).

\* The WHS1961 (49:70) notes an Isaac Groh

among the ministers who graduated from the Freeport Academy, but Eby doesn't mention this.

Sources: Eby #3416; WHS1922 10:214; WHS1957 45:35; WHS1961 49:70.

**HACHBORN, ARTHUR,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944

**Years:** 7

**Born:** 1891. **Died:** 1964, Feb 12

**Family:** son of Henry

**Address:** GCT67, Bloomingdale

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Spouse:** Ina Snider

**Children:** Ruth; Doris; Alice; Mabel; Margaret; Florence

**Religion:** Missionary, Breslau

**Landholdings:** GCT67

**Acres:** 300

**Locality:** Victoria

**Organizations:** United Missionary Church, Breslau

Waterloo Tp, Union SS 28, Victoria

**Notes:** Farmed one half of north part, William Snider farm. Hachborn as son-in-law worked farm from 1917 and became legal owners from 1923. Increased by over 100 more acres.

\* Mr Hachborn lost his hand in a farm accident while operating a grain chopper in 1934, but managed very well with an artificial hand. He was a School Trustee of Victoria School Section for many years in addition to his township work. He died of a heart attack.

**Sources:** Schweitzers

**HAGEY, JOSEPH B.,**

**Township Council:** Third Deputy Reeve 1894; First Deputy Reeve 1895, 1896; Reeve 1897, 1898

**Years:** 5 **R-years:** 2

**Born:** 1848, Oct 4 **Died:** 1924, Oct 1

**Family:** son of Bishop Joseph and Sophia Bricker

**Address:** Preston, GCT126 (old Bishop Hagey homestead on the east side of the road from Preston to Breslau)

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Spouse:** Rebecca Snyder

**Children:** Irvine; Ethel Eda; Walter; Elsie Edna; Laura Iva

**Religion:** Methodist

**Landholdings:** GCT126

**Acres:** 200

**Locality:** Riverbank

**Organizations:** Zion Methodist Church, Maple Grove

**Notes:** He was known as young Joseph or Der jung Josey Hagey, "a good farmer and is highly esteemed by all classes of people", according to Eby. Obituary in Galt Reporter describes him as one of the best known figures of the district, his parents having been among the pioneers. Died of stroke.

**Sources:** HA; Eby #3473; obit Galt Reporter 10/11/1924 p4

**HALLMAN, ABRAHAM C.,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1908, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913; Deputy Reeve 1914, 1915; Reeve 1916, 1917

**Years:** 9 **R-years:** 2

**Born:** 1858, Oct 25 **Died:** 1918, Oct 16

**Family:** Son of John S. Hallman and Mary Clemens (3rd of 12 children)

**Address:** first owned a farm between New Dundee and Petersburg; bought the Breslau, Spring Brook Stock Farm in 1895; the farm was purchased by H.L. Janzen following Hallman's death.

**Occupation:** Farmer/breeder

**Spouse:** Orinda Baldwin

**Children:** No children

**Religion:** Mennonite; Methodist

**Landholdings:** GCT106/107

**Acres:** 161

**Locality:** Breslau

**Organizations:** Holstein-Friesian Association of Canada - president  
North Waterloo Agricultural Board  
Trinity Methodist Church, Berlin  
Farm and Dairy - director of this periodical published in Peterborough

**Notes:** One of the first Canadian breeders of Holstein-Friesian cattle, first exhibiting in 1886. In 1906 he had a herd of over 60 head, importing cattle from both England and the United States. In 1893 he began breeding Tamworth swine. He acted as a judge of stock at all leading exhibitions as far west as Winnipeg and "he has also been one of the expert judges in connection with the Department of Agriculture ever since its inception." For many years he was on the staff of speakers of the Farmers' Institutes of Ontario. He also wrote the section on agriculture in 100 Years of Progress, published by the Chronicle Telegraph in 1906. "He was one of the staunchest supporters of the British cause throughout the years of the



recent appalling war, and proved himself upon every possible occasion to be a devoted friend of our soldiers and their dependents" (WHS1921). Born in Wilmot Tp near New Dundee,

he died of a fall from a silo.

Sources: Eby #3519; photo in 100 Years of Progress; KPL vf watco cb; WHS1921 9:169-170; obit Chronicle Telegraph 24/10/1918p23.

#### **HALLMAN, IRVIN C.,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924; Second Deputy Reeve 1925, 1926; First Deputy Reeve 1927, 1928, 1929; Reeve 1930, 1931

**Years:** 11 **R-years:** 2

**Born:** 1874, Aug 20 **Died:** 1962, Sept 25

**Family:** 10th child John S. Hallman and Mary Clemens

**Address:** RR#1, Waterloo

**Occupation:** Farmer; Livestock shipping agent

**Spouse:** Elsie Mina Stauffer, d 1937

**Children:** Ida Mae (m. John J. Brohman); Amy (m. Fred Snyder); Leighton; Morris; Laura (m. Elmer Stouffer)

**Religion:** Methodist; United

**Landholdings:** GCT32

**Acres:** 211

**Locality:** Rummelhardt

**Notes:** He was born in Wilmot Township, educated at Rosebank Public School, and in 1902 bought the David Eby farm (219 acres) which adjoined Waterloo Township. In 1918 he started a cooperative plan for shipping cattle to Toronto, resulting in higher prices for the stock.

\* He succeeded Tilman S. Shantz as assessor for Waterloo Township in 1914, a post he held until 1920 when he was elected by acclamation to the Township Council.

\* 1931, Oct 10 - as reeve, opened the new road between the old Huron Road and the Pioneers' Monument.

\* He was part of the executive for the 2nd and 3rd Clemens Family Reunions in 1926 and 1931. Buried Erb Street Mennonite Cemetery, Waterloo

**Sources:** obit KWR 26/9/1962; Eby #3526

#### **HALTER, EDWARD,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1875, 1876; First Deputy 1877, 1878; Reeve 1879

**Years:** 5 **R-years:** 1

**Born:** 1834, October 12 **Died:** 1917, October 29

**Family:** son of Alexis and Caroline Haas

**Address:** Freiburg, GCT82/New Germany

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Origin:** France, Lower Alsace

**Migration date:** 1843

**Spouse:** Mary Scharbach

**Children:** Andrew; Rev. Joseph; Sister Veronica; Clement; Edward; Theresa; Mrs Gregory Kloefer

**Religion:** RCatholic

**Politics:** Conservative

**Landholdings:** GCT82/GCT83

**Acres:** 168

**Locality:** New Germany

**Organizations:** Hopewell Creek Fire Insurance Co.

**Notes:** He is described as being over six feet tall, broad and deep chested, and very strong. His wife was tall as well, and so were their children. He visited the pope, refusing to visit him in the regulation evening dress, and was given special dispensation to wear his farmer's tweeds. "Mr Halter was frequently urged to stand for office. Had he not declined he might have risen to important positions. He felt also that he lacked the refinement and social acquirements needed to mingle with those in higher walks of life" (WHS1917 5:59-60). He is said to have spoken three languages--French, German and English--and to have visited Europe on several occasions.

\* 1874 - appointed Justice of the Peace, the same year he was elected to Waterloo Township Council. He was a Notary Public and Commissioner of the High Court for about 45 years. In 1880 he promoted the Hopewell Creek

Fire Insurance Company of which he was president 6 years, and a director 12 years. His solutions to problems or disagreements are still quoted by older residents.

\* His house in Maryhill is leased to the Historical Society of St Boniface and Maryhill Community.

Sources: WHS1917 5:59-60 with portrait

### **HASSAN, JAMES,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1856

**Years:** 1

**Born:** 1809 **Died:** 1886, Feb 9

**Address:** Freiburg, GCT98, on Tremaine map in 1861, immediately east of New Germany village crossroads, on township line and north of road to Guelph

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Origin:** Ireland

**Migration date:** 1830

**Spouse:** Margaret Chapman

**Religion:** RCatholic

**Landholdings:** GCT98

**Acres:** 78

**Locality:** New Germany

**Notes:** Many members of Hassan family were associated with St Boniface Roman Catholic Church, Maryhill, but in 1881, following the death of his wife, James suffered a loss of faith and was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Guelph.

\* In 1861 census noted with household of 12 in 2-storey stone house; 78 acres, valued at \$1,580 in 1861

\* Name variously spelled: Hasson in Historical Atlas; Hassen in 1861 census; Hassin on tombstone

**Sources:** Listed in Breitkopf's Roman Catholic census of Maryhill in 1866, but not listed in A journal of New Germany. John Hassan at Lot 5 UB (Bridgeport in voters' list); obit Dumfries Reformer 18/2/1886p4; Donna Madill

### **HENDERSON, THOMAS,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1856, 1857, 1858

**Years:** 3

**Born:** 1811 **Died:** 1892, Mar 3

**Address:** Blair, BNS2E

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Origin:** Scotland, Roxburghshire

**Migration date:** 1831

**Spouse:** Isabella Young

**Children:** Adam; Ann; James; Janet; Isabella; Elspeth; Thomas

**Religion:** Presbyterian

**Landholdings:** BNS2E

**Acres:** 100

**Locality:** English Settlement

**Organizations:** St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Berlin

**Notes:** 1832 - settled on farm 2 miles from Blair on the Waterloo Township line on farm later known as "Rose Bank" at English Settlement. Noted as JP on Tremaine map, with household of 7 in 1-storey frame house in 1861 census

\* 1879 - sold farm to W. Beattie of Roseville and moved to Berlin

**Sources:** 1861 census; obit Dumfries Reformer 10/3/1892 "Another pioneer gone"



**HENRY, WILLIAM,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868

**Years:** 5

**Born:** 1811, June **Died:** 1880, Sept 4

**Family:** son of John Henry, brother of Thomas

**Address:** GCT91, 160 acres

**Occupation:** Farmer; Minister

**Origin:** Ireland

**Migration date:** 1811 to North America; 1837 to Waterloo Tp

**Spouse:** Dorcas

**Children:** Jane; John; Orrin; Mary Anne; William Henry; James; Sarah; Thomas; Dorcas

**Religion:** Christian

**Landholdings:** GCT91

**Acres:** 160

**Locality:** Kossuth

**Notes:** Henry was township assessor for Ward 1 in 1853, 1854, 1857, 1858 and 1861; fence viewer in 1857 and 1859, overseer of highways in 1857, pound keeper in 1862, and collector in 1862 and 1863. Ambrose quotes \$36 payment for being councillor in 1867 and payments are mentioned for other services (WHS1993 81:9-11)

\* He founded a Bible Christian Church in 1831 near Kossuth on the northwestern part of his property, GCT91, close to the Guelph townline. He moved to Harriston in the late 1860s where he founded Jerusalem Christian Church. He died in 1880 in Harriston.

**Sources:** WHS1993 81:9-11; 1861 census

**HERTEL, HERMAN,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1895, 1899; Third Deputy Reeve 1896; Second Deputy Reeve 1897, 1898

**Years:** 5

**Born:** 1849, Feb 19 **Died:** 1922, April 5

**Family:** brother of Isaac?; Frederick H. in 1861, tailor on GCT118?

**Address:** Berlin, pt Lot 54/Freeport

**Occupation:** Building contractor

**Spouse:** Marion Gehl

**Children:** Norman; Jacob; Amos; Maude; Mrs Adam Scharman

**Religion:** Mennonite

**Landholdings:** GCT54

**Acres:** 20

**Locality:** Centreville

**Organizations:** First Mennonite Church Cemetery, Kitchener

Waterloo Tp, SS 4, Pine Grove

**Notes:** Built a new buff brick school in 1889 at Pine Grove, Waterloo Tp SS 4

\* Died at Freeport; special car hired to take relatives from Preston to East End Mennonite Cemetery for funeral (Daily Record 5/4/1922; "well known and highly respected citizen of Freeport" (obit Waterloo Chronicle 13/4/1922)

\* A Mrs Herman Hertel lived in Freeport in 1940--see her sister's obituary, Mrs Aaron Shantz (M. & J. Snyder p333). A Herman Hertel (1888-1944) is buried in Freeport Pioneer Cemetery.

**Sources:** WHS1979 67:87; M. & J. Snyder p333; short obits in Waterloo Chronicle 13/4/1922 and Daily Record 5/4/1922

**ISLEY, THEODORE HENRY,**

**Township Council:** Deputy Reeve 1952; Reeve 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972

**Years:** 10 **R-years:** 9

**Born:** 1912, Oct. 13

**Family:** son of George and Josephine Vollmer

**Address:** GCT106, RR 2, Breslau, Highway 7

**Occupation:** Farmer/breeder; insurance agent

**Spouse:** Rita M. Zuber

**Children:** George William; Maryann Josephine; John (adopted Yugoslavian child)

**Religion:** RCatholic

**Politics:** CCF

**Landholdings:** GCT106

**Locality:** Shantz Station

**Organizations:** Breslau Co-Operative

Waterloo County Centennial, 1952

Children's Aid Society

Waterloo County Supplies Co-operative

St Boniface Roman Catholic Church, Maryhill

**Notes:** Family moved from Wellesley Tp to Breslau area in 1920s; later bought farm from wife's family, the Zuber in 1949, one mile north of the home farm. His farm was next to his father's so that he could help his father and share the equipment.

\* A largely self-educated man who credits his political aspirations on his experiences during the Depression, when Kitchener women held out their aprons to beg for potatoes and the woman to whom the farm mortgage was due didn't ask for the money because she "couldn't eat money and she couldn't use the farm" (KPL OHT)

\* MPP for Waterloo South in 1948, in which he defeated the Liberal candidate, Norman Hipel, and Gordon Chaplin, Progressive Conservative. He was one of the key people in developing the farm policy for the CCF.

\* Lost the 1951 provincial election, but was nominated the following day for Deputy Reeve. The issues that year were police corruption

and neglect of duty on the part of the township chief of police, and a larger school administration. Isley supported a regional police force and a township school board, neither of which were immediately popular. He didn't see political divisions between rural and urban sectors, but between Galt and the rest of the township.

\* In 1962 he was part of Herb Schneider's group of citizens for better government. He was supposed to find candidates to nominate and when the candidate for Reeve backed out, proposed himself. He was Reeve from 1963 until Regional Government.

\* Founding president of the Breslau Co-operative in 1947; Chairman of the Waterloo Centennial Committee in 1952; Secretary of the Farm Forum for many years.

\* Bred purebred Holsteins, beef cattle, and hogs. The Isley family were active in the work of the Children's Aid Society, and housed four children placed by that society. "Mr Isley has always been a strong advocate for child welfare and security for the aged and has devoted a great deal of time at this point to benefit as many as are deserving. His recreations are reading good books and studying nature" (Burkholder). He was active with the Breslau Fuel and Supplies Co-operative; Educational and Public Relations Committee of Breslau Co-operative Association; Supervisory Committee-Breslau Credit Union Ltd; Ontario Section of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation; Petroleum Committee-Breslau-Guelph Co-operatives; Consumers Co-operative, Waterloo, Co-operative Medical Services, Waterloo County Supplies Co-operative, and the St Boniface Church, Maryhill.

**Sources:** Profile with photo in Burkholder pp454-5; KPL OHT

### **JAMES, QUENTIN,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1964, 1965 when he replaced Leonard Burton, 1966, 1967

**Years:** 4

**Address:** RR3 Kitchener, Chicopee Hills

**Occupation:** Business executive

**Origin:** Quebec?

**Migration date:** 1952

**Locality:** Centreville

**Organizations:** Waterloo Tp, SS 5, Centreville

**Notes:** General manager of Autotronic Control Company, located on Block Line

\* Endorsed by Township Committee for Better Government in November 1963; he decided to stand because the township council needed board business experience and because he was dissatisfied with schools issue and overspending of roads budget; SS 5 trustee.

\* Not elected in later 1963 but accepted vacancy created when Leonard Burton killed in car crash returning from road inspection in June 1964.

**Sources:** KWR 14/11/1963 and following

election coverage; newspapers;

\* photo in OCCA Galt Reporter personal info files

### **JANSEN, AUGUST,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1899, 1900, 1901, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915; Deputy Reeve 1916, 1917; Reeve 1918, 1919, 1920

**Years:** 14 **R-years:** 3

**Born:** 1849 **Died:** 1933, Mar 9

**Address:** Centreville; GCT54 Freeport in 1906 directory

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Spouse:** Margaret Faust

**Children:** Clara

**Religion:** RCatholic

**Landholdings:** GCT54

**Acres:** 105

**Locality:** Centreville

**Organizations:** Preston Horticultural Society

**Notes:** Centreville Tweedsmuir notes that August purchased the farm of David S. Wismer from John Erb in 1895. The farm land was later the site of the Centreville station, the O.W. Thompson fox ranch, the camp meeting site of the Mennonite Brethren in Christ, part of a Kitchener cemetery, and many houses. The name Janzen is spelled with a "z" in the township records and in directories, while the cemetery records and Tweedsmuir history spell it with an "s". Buried in the Arlington Blvd portion of Woodland Cemetery.

\* In contest for Deputy Reeve in early 1916, Jansen was condemned by Galt Reporter (6 January 1916) for alleged pro-German tendencies and un-British expression "placing himself in a position to be unworthy of a place at the County and Township Councils." He "denied allegations and imputations" and in a "keenly contested election" was returned by a majority of 66 over rival, Amos Groff.

**Sources:** Centreville Tweedsmuir; assessment rolls; Groff accusations in Galt Reporter 6/11/1916; death mentioned Kitchener Daily Record 11/3/1933



**JANZEN, HENRY,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1945;

Councillor 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971

**Years:** 7

**Born:** 1915, March 11

**Family:** son of Charles H. Janzen and

Caroline Guggisberg

**Address:** GCT107, RR 2, Breslau

**Occupation:** Plant nursery business

**Religion:** Baptist

**Politics:** Conservative

**Landholdings:** GCT107

**Acres:** 166

**Locality:** Shantz Station

**Organizations:** Breslau Co-Operative

Waterloo Tp, SS 14, Shantz Station

**Notes:** Born in Berlin, one of five children

(Louis, Frederick, Margaret and Elizabeth).

In 1920 the family nursery and florist

business founded by grandfather Henry Louis,

who was a Berlin community leader for years,

moved to A.C. Hallman's estate, Springbrook,

where the father kept greenhouses (assessed

in mother's name in 1951). H.L. Janzen bought

property when Hallman killed by fall from silo.

\* He was educated at the Shantz Station

School (taught by Aggie Sullivan, later Mrs

Hergott), at Waterloo Lutheran College (as

boarder), at K-W Collegiate, and graduated

from OAC in 1939 in horticulture--"we didn't

have too many dreams in the thirties." In

nursery, his main function was to keep boiler

operating to heat greenhouses; recalls

shipping violets to Montreal (KPL OHT)

\* Challenged Robert Cowan for reeveship in

1944, when campaign issue was reassessment,

and elected as councillor following year.

Describes campaign methods on OH tape, and

also sister Elizabeth's PC campaign against

Norman Schneider in federal election. Henry

Janzen was the first secretary-treasurer of

the Breslau Co-operative, founded in 1947

(WHS1969 57:41). In 1963 he sold the farm and

built a home near Hopewell Creek. Following

retirement he re-entered local politics and

in 1966 as a councillor he became involved

with the GRCA, swapping that department with

the fire department for the benefit of

Quentin James.

**Sources:** WHS1969 57:41; KPL OHT

**JOHANNES, JAMES NELSON, "JIM",**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1946, 1948,

1962, 1963; Deputy Reeve 1949, 1950, 1955;

Reeve 1952, 1953, 1956, 1957, 1958

**Years:** 12 **R-years:** 5

**Born:** 1900, May 10 **Died:** 1989, Feb 26

**Family:** Son of George Johannes, a Blair

blacksmith and owner of the Blair General

Store, and brother of Lorne, Elmer, Milton

and Edward

**Address:** Blair/Preston; St Luke's Home,

Cambridge

**Occupation:** Auctioneer

**Spouse:** Clara Kiefhaber

**Children:** George; Robert; Douglas; Mary;

Marjorie; Louise

**Religion:** Baptist

**Landholdings:** Blair

**Locality:** Blair

**Organizations:** Blair Athol, Blair

Doon Pioneer Village

Waterloo Historical Society

Benton Street Baptist Church, Kitchener

Temple Baptist Church, Cambridge

Cambridge Christian Businessmen's Committee

Evangelical Baptist Church, Blair

Gideon Memorial Bible Society

Social Credit Association of Ontario

Blair Union Sunday School

**Notes:** James Johannes was an auctioneer, lay preacher, and a founding member of the Board of Directors of Doon Pioneer Village. Later he donated a stone water trough from "Blair Athol" to Pioneer Village, subsequently selling the buildings and few acres which he had bought in 1939 -- in 1967.

\* He left school at 13, doing (very) odd jobs: these included shooting crows and groundhogs, running a horse-powered sausage factory, and serving as a race-horse groom. For 15 years (1924-1939) he ran a grocery business in Blair with his wife, when he was also Express Agent for the Grand Trunk

Railway which ran ten trains a day through Blair. He also had a rural mail route for several years. In 1945 he sold the store and became an auctioneer in 1947.

\* He was instrumental in acquiring many of the Doon Pioneer buildings, as well as the replica of Waterloo Town Hall as a centennial project. He was a life member of the Waterloo Historical Society and a member of the Christian Business Men's Association, which held services most Sunday afternoons at Doon Pioneer Village in 1968 under his direction. Johannes was superintendent of Blair Union School for ten years or more and was Deacon and treasurer of "The Church" at Blair. He was Warden of Waterloo County in 1958 and a director of the Social Credit Association of Ontario in the 1950s. He was a founding member of the Cambridge Christian Businessmen's Committee.

\* A poem entitled "Blair" by Aaron Hagey, the hayseed poet, says: "And then there is our merchant Jim/ Who runs the corner store./He's noted for his pleasant smile/And never getting sore;/He's on the job from morn till night/ And tries to please them all./And any one in need of gas/He's sure to hear the call." Joe Zinger tells how in the 1950s election when both Jim Johannes and Clayton Rickert were running for Township reeve, Johannes characterized the election as a race between the godly and the ungodly even though both attended their own churches regularly. Rickert won the election.

**Sources:** Newspapers; KPL OHT; KPL vf; OCCA; Leggett;

\* photo in KWR 21/12/1972 "Wardens gather" or Cambridge Times 19/9/1973p10B

# **JOHANNES, LORNE,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1940, 1941, 1942

**Years:** 3

**Born:** 1902, Jul 3 **Died:** 1984, May 18

**Family:** youngest of five sons of George Johannes, a Blair blacksmith

**Address:** Blair/Galt

**Occupation:** Blacksmith; Newspaper agent

**Spouse:** Lois Sherk

**Children:** Peter; Carol

**Religion:** Baptist

**Landholdings:** Blair

**Locality:** Blair

**Organizations:** Ontario Rural Hockey Association

Ontario Rural Softball Association

Forward Baptist Church

Blair Hornets

Christian Businessmen's Committee of Cambridge

Galt Evening Reporter

Cambridge Gideon Group

Guelph Correctional Centre chaplaincy service

Christian Nationals' Evangelism Commission

Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship's Pioneer Camp in Muskoka

Blair Union Sunday School

Blair Board of Trade

Blair Cemetery, Waterloo Tp

**Notes:** Lorne was the last Johannes to be a blacksmith in Blair, selling the equipment in 1926. He organized the Blair Board of Trade, advocated the cleaning up of Blair Cemetery, and was superintendent of the Blair Union Sunday School. He was circulation manager of the Cambridge Daily Reporter for 45 years, retiring in 1973. He began a carrier boy in his teens, and then became the Blair correspondent. He founded both the Ontario Rural Hockey Association in 1931 and the Rural Softball Association in 1932 with Dr John Seaton. These organizations helped the

rural communities compete more fairly with teams from larger towns and from cities. He was captain and manager of the Blair Hornets. He founded or helped found the Forward Baptist Church of Cambridge and the Knox Presbyterian Church Golden Hour. When he retired he became a gardener and grew mammoth vegetables. He was inducted into the Waterloo County Hall of Fame in 1974, and there was a Lorne Johannes Appreciation Night in May 1979. None of the articles mention his township office.

**Sources:** KPL vf, Leggett, v1; Hall of Fame photo



**KENNEDY, ARTHUR,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1959, 1960, 1961, 1963, 1964, 1965; Deputy Reeve 1966, 1967; 1968, 1969

**Years:** 10

**Born:** 1915, Apr 11 **Died:** 1979, Feb 7

**Family:** Son of Jim and Lillian (Busch) of Macton area, Wellesley Township

**Address:** Maryhill, RR 1, Breslau

**Occupation:** Farmer; Trucker (cattle and fertilizer for local farmers)

**Spouse:** Vera Brohman

**Children:** John; Ronald; Carole; Marie; Anne

**Religion:** RCatholic

**Politics:** Liberal

**Landholdings:** GCT77 (pt)

**Acres:** 98

**Locality:** Victoria

**Organizations:** Knights of Columbus

**Notes:** Came to Waterloo to work for Seagrams in early 1930s and returned after working one summer for an uncle in Saskatchewan.

\* House on GCT77 has original 1831 log construction; farm bought from father-in-law, John Brohman in 1951, who had bought it from the Beitz Estate in a tax sale. Olive Schweitzer, for Bloomingdale Tweedsmuir made a title search, finding that land originally belonged to Abraham Erb. April 30, 1842: 98 acres sold to Mathies Beitz Sr by Executors of Abraham Erb Estate; January 3, 1890 by Mathies Beitz Estate to Lorenz Beitz.

**Sources:** Schweitzers

**KING, ARTHUR CASE,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1948, 1949, 1951

**Years:** 3

**Born:** 1893 **Died:** 1972, Sept 6

**Family:** son of Solomon

**Address:** 80 McGee Ave

**Occupation:** Rubber worker

**Origin:** St Johns, Newfoundland

**Migration date:** c1922

**Spouse:** Lillian Moore; Mary Buckley (Williams)

**Children:** George; Bernard

**Religion:** Salvation Army

**Locality:** Sunnyside

**Organizations:** B.F. Goodrich Co., Kitchener Salvation Army, Kitchener

**Notes:** Rubber worker more than 30 years

\* Commissioned sergeant major of Salvation Army, formerly bandmaster of Kitchener Corps  
\* He was present at the opening of Kingsdale post office in 1949. The post office was located in Sunnyside, on Highway 8 east of Kitchener, previously part of RR 3, Kitchener.

**Sources:** WHS1980 68:39; obit KWR 7/9/1972p26

**KINZIE, SIMON,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1918, 1919; Deputy Reeve 1920, 1932, 1933; Reeve 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937

**Years:** 14 **R-years:** 9

**Born:** 1866, Nov. 1 **Died:** 1940, June 22

**Family:** Son of Moses and Leah Eby

**Address:** GCT116, 2 miles S of Breslau, the Eli Sherk farm

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Spouse:** Sarah Kraft

**Children:** Luella; Geneva; Maurice

**Religion:** Mennonite

**Landholdings:** GCT116

**Acres:** 140

**Locality:** Breslau

**Notes:** Farm had 174 acres under father Moses in 1881, down to 140 in 1920s. Spelling of name always Kinsie in township records.

\* Farm which he moved to in 1872 was part of the old Dr Shirk estate, "one of the finest farm homes in this section, and it is kept in a thoroughly improved condition by its present occupant. Simon Kinzie is also one of our up to date farmers, and there are few to excel him in fitting livestock for the export market. His crops also generally look thrifty and bear evidence of a proper fertilization and cultivation of the soil" (Newcombe). Simon was Warden of Waterloo County in 1937. The first road grader was bought by the township when Kinzie was reeve in the 30s his neighbour, Vernon Mader, became the first operator (WHS1971 59:62).

\* Returned from retirement after D-Reeve W.W. Tilt died suddenly, 6 Feb 1932.

\* Buried in Breslau Mennonite Cemetery, but attended Stirling Ave

**Sources:** Eby #4082; WHS1971 59:62; Newcombe; obit KWR 22/6/1940p3

**KLEIN, FRANK A.,**  
**Township Council:** Councillor 1926, 1927,  
 1928, 1929; Second Deputy Reeve 1930, 1931  
**Years:** 6  
**Born:** 1879, Mar 9 **Died:** 1957, Jan 31  
**Family:** son of Joseph and Frances Schaefer  
**Address:** New Germany  
**Occupation:** Farmer  
**Spouse:** Teresa Zettel  
**Children:** Laura (m. Mike Kurtz Jr); Oscar;  
 Edward; Frank; Elizabeth (m. Albert Zinger);  
 Annie Halter; Frances (m. Frank Waechter);  
 Stella (m. Charles Longstaff); Mary (m.  
 Lawrence Warren); Clara (m. Chester Reilly)  
**Religion:** RCatholic  
**Landholdings:** GCT98  
**Acres:** 82  
**Locality:** New Germany  
**Organizations:** Waterloo Tp, SS 13, New  
 Germany  
 St Boniface Roman Catholic Church, Maryhill  
 St Boniface Separate School, Maryhill  
 Holy Name Society, Maryhill  
**Notes:** Member of the school board for 11  
 years, secretary-treasurer for 9 years  
**Sources:** obit KWR 1/2/1957  
 \* photo Confederation number p29

**KLIE, LESLIE C.,**  
**Township Council:** Councillor 1943, 1944,  
 1945, 1949, 1950; Deputy Reeve 1946, 1951  
**Years:** 7  
**Born:** 1887 **Died:** 1969, Dec 8  
**Family:** son of Henry and Clara Nahrgang  
**Address:** Bridgeport (GCT125), on the west  
 side of the Grand River about one mile  
 northwest of Bridgeport, otherwise known as  
 RR#2, Waterloo  
**Occupation:** Farmer  
**Spouse:** Cora Hallman  
**Children:** Vernon; Harold; Carl; John;  
 George; Fred; June (m. George Knopf)  
**Religion:** Evangelical  
**Landholdings:** GCT125  
**Acres:** 130  
**Locality:** Bridgeport  
**Organizations:** Waterloo Township District  
 High School Board  
 Purity Dairy, Kitchener  
 Bridgeport Evangelical Church  
 Emmanuel United Church, Bridgeport  
**Notes:** Parents came from Germany in about  
 1880. Leslie first came to Bridgeport area  
 c.1915 as herdsman for Henry Knell with  
 Holstein herd on what became known as  
 Brubacher farm north of Bridgeport between  
 Woolwich and University. Then c.1918 bought  
 80-acre farm in Mannheim area returning to  
 Bridgeport in 1923 when Leslie bought 135  
 acres of GCT125 (from Levi and Hannah  
 Snyder) to operate as dairy farm. (According to  
 son George, Leslie exchanged operating farm  
 with Gottfried Doehn).  
 \* Bought Purity Dairy in 1935 (Victoria  
 Street South) for sons Vern, Harry and Carl.  
 Increased capacity from 6 cans to 180 daily  
 by 1962/3. Son Vern had worked for Burkhardt  
 Dairy on Breithaupt St (later Maple Lane) and  
 then went to OAC to learn the business.  
 Purity sold to Maple Lane Nov. 1, 1963.  
 \* He represented Waterloo Township Council at

the sod-turning for Bridgeport's new school  
 in 1950.  
 \* In the oral history tapes, Joe Zinger  
 refers to Klie as an old-timer politician  
 though a good councillor; at election times  
 he did plenty of mud-slinging and didn't pay  
 too much attention to issues. Barbara  
 (Boettger) Quickfall recalls the polls held  
 in her childhood home at Lexington and how  
 Klie brought in the Mennonite farmers to vote  
 and would talk over local matters around the  
 stove in Henry Bowman's blacksmith shop in  
 Lexington.  
 \* Klie a member of the Waterloo Township  
 District High School Board in 1961.  
 \* Farm sold for development in 1967; barn  
 sold to Mennonites to replace one burned down  
 and log cabin offered to Doon Pioneer Village  
 (but not taken up). In 1963 he and his wife  
 lived with his son George in the Bridgeport  
 area.  
**Sources:** WHS1939 27:80; KPL OHT with Joseph  
 Zinger; photograph of Leslie Klie who was  
 representing the township council at the sod  
 turning for Bridgeport school in 1950 in the  
 Bridgeport Tweedsmuir; reel 3 of Bridgeport  
 Tweedsmuir has a clipping 26/1/1963 of him  
 celebrating his 50th wedding anniversary;  
 obit KWR 9/12/1969. B. Quickfall story in  
 Bridgeport News 15/2 (Winter 1995) pp4-5



**KNECHTEL, CRANSON,**  
**Township Council:** Councillor 1968, 1969,  
 1970, 1971, 1972  
**Years:** 5  
**Born:** 1929  
**Family:** son of Edward B.  
**Occupation:** Wholesale grocer  
**Children:** Paul; Maebelle  
**Locality:** Elmdale  
**Organizations:** House of Friendship,  
 Kitchener  
 Knechtel Wholesale Grocers Ltd/Knechtel Corp.  
**Notes:** Knechtel was head of Knechtel  
 Corporation in 1979, associated with the  
 House of Friendship in Kitchener, and has  
 "served on the boards of numerous civic and  
 church-related organizations."  
**Sources:** KPL vf Knechtel Corp

**KOEHLER, LOUIS,**  
**Township Council:** Councillor 1891, 1897,  
 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901; Reeve 1902, 1903  
**Years:** 8 **R-years:** 2  
**Born:** 1845, Feb 23 **Died:** 1931, Jan 27  
**Family:** son of Christian  
**Address:** Waterloo, GCT43/16 Allan East,  
 Waterloo  
**Occupation:** Farmer  
**Origin:** Germany  
**Migration date:** 1846  
**Spouse:** Catharine Schaefer  
**Children:** Henry; William; Mrs Henry  
 Doerbecker; Mrs Jacob Foerster; Mrs Albert  
 Stroh; Mrs Milton Schaaf  
**Religion:** Lutheran  
**Politics:** Conservative  
**Landholdings:** GCT43/44  
**Acres:** 123  
**Locality:** Rummelhardt  
**Organizations:** St Peter's Lutheran Church,  
 Berlin  
 Berlin Horticultural Association  
 Liberal-Conservative Association (executive)  
**Notes:** Father recorded in 1861 on 44 acres  
 of GCT21, immediately west of Berlin. Louis  
 was a member of the first confirmation class  
 of St Peter's Lutheran Church, Berlin, on  
 Palm Sunday 1863, while services were still  
 being held in the Town Hall.  
 \* In 1877-8 gazetteer and 1895 Union  
 directory, Louis listed on GCT43 (father  
 Christian still on GCT45). Louis still there  
 in 1906 (Union). The Waterloo Chronicle noted  
 in its front page obituary that Koehler was a  
 "prominent farmer and was well known for his  
 superior apples and vegetables which were  
 shown at various fall fairs and carried off  
 first prizes. For a long period of years he  
 was a regular attendant at the Waterloo  
 Market." He was one of the first directors of  
 the Berlin Horticultural Society when it was  
 formed in 1882 (Uttley).

\* Obit mistaken in saying Koehler was on  
 Wellesley Township Council for 13 years and  
 Reeve for two years? Retired to Waterloo and  
 buried in Waterloo cemetery.  
**Sources:** St Matthews Evangelical Church  
 anniversary report 1904-1929 (photo); obit in  
 Waterloo Chronicle; Uttley

**KRAFT, AARON,**  
**Township Council:** Councillor in 1877, 1878;  
 Second Deputy Reeve 1879; First Deputy Reeve  
 in 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883  
**Years:** 7  
**Born:** 1835, Jan 12 **Died:** 1897, Dec 22  
**Family:** third son of George and Esther  
 Bingeman  
**Address:** GCT42, in 1879 moved to Waterloo  
**Occupation:** Farmer/Miller  
**Spouse:** Mary Schneider  
**Children:** Josiah; Lydia Ann; Mary Ann;  
 Abraham; Hannah; Magdalena (m. Lehman  
 Shirk)  
**Religion:** Mennonite  
**Landholdings:** GCT42  
**Acres:** 231  
**Locality:** Rummelhardt  
**Organizations:** Union Mills, Waterloo  
**Notes:** Following marriage in 1858, moved to  
 farm a few miles west of Waterloo, later  
 occupied by Mr Hunsberger. Four of six  
 children died in infancy.  
 \* Owner of Union Mills with William Snider  
 from 1879 to 1898. Also owned 37 acres in  
 Pilkington Township where he operated a saw  
 mill.  
 \* In 1884, bought Walden property on Albert  
 Street and moved into Waterloo. He was a "man  
 of a quiet and peaceable disposition and  
 highly respected by all with whom he came in  
 contact in either business or social  
 relations" (obit).  
**Sources:** WHS1979 67:74; Eby #4162; obit  
 Waterloo Chronicle 23/12/1897 p5; obit Berlin  
 News Record

**KRAFT, MOSES,**  
**Township Council:** Councillor in 1875 and  
 1876  
**Years:** 2  
**Born:** 1833, May 23 **Died:** 1907, Nov 30  
**Family:** 1st son of George and Esther  
 Bingeman  
**Address:** Bridgeport  
**Occupation:** Farmer/Stock dealer; Real estate  
 investor  
**Spouse:** Magdalena Hagey  
**Children:** Jacob; Magdalena (n. Abraham B.  
 Clemmer); Ephriam; William; Cyrus; Solomon;  
 Sarah (m. Simon Kinzie); Allan; Ezra; George  
 Henry; Almira  
**Religion:** Mennonite  
**Landholdings:** GCT112 - Bingeman Estate;  
 Sherington Farm adjoining his farm to the  
 north  
**Acres:** 272  
**Locality:** Bridgeport  
**Organizations:** Waterloo Tp, SS 11,  
 Bridgeport  
**Notes:** After marriage farmed a few miles  
 west of Waterloo, then moved to family  
 farmstead (and birthplace) in Bridgeport,  
 GCT112, 283 acres, formerly John Bingeman's  
 land, assessed 272 acres in 1881; owned 600  
 acres of land (with butchering business) in  
 1896.  
 \* Called by Eby a good farmer and shrewd  
 businessman who in 1896 was devoting his time  
 to managing his extensive farms. In 1879 he  
 was a school trustee for Bridgeport school.  
**Sources:** Eby #4149; said in obit (BDT  
 2/12/1907) to have died of heart failure  
 while eating an apple.

**KRIBS, LEWIS,**  
**Township Council:** Councillor in 1873; Second  
 Deputy Reeve 1874; First Deputy Reeve in  
 1875; Reeve 1876  
**Years:** 4 **R-years:** 1  
**Born:** 1829, Dec 1 **Died:** 1908, March 12  
**Family:** Son of Aaron Kribs  
**Address:** BLB3-8 ; BLB3-13 also in 1906 dir.  
**Occupation:** Contractor/builder  
**Origin:** Wellington County, Eramosa Township  
**Migration date:** 1846  
**Spouse:** Elizabeth Panabaker  
**Children:** Sarah Ann (m. Henry Bradley);  
 Henry Aaron; Lewis Panabaker; William Abram;  
 George Alexander; Elizabeth Rebecca (Lizzie);  
 Margaret Minerva (m. Walter Renwick); Clara  
 Jane; Olive Ellen; Mary Victoria; Florence  
 Almira  
**Religion:** Presbyterian  
**Politics:** Conservative  
**Landholdings:** BLB3-8/13  
**Acres:** 125  
**Locality:** Hespeler  
**Organizations:** Knox's Presbyterian Church,  
 Galt  
 Waterloo County House of Industry and Refuge  
 Holm's Mills, Hespeler  
 W.A. Kribs Manufacturing Co., Hespeler  
 Simplicity Products Ltd, Hespeler  
 St James Lutheran Church, Hespeler  
 St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Hespeler  
 Hespeler Methodist Church  
 Knox's Presbyterian Church, Galt  
**Notes:** He was the contractor for the  
 Waterloo Township Hall and the Waterloo  
 County House of Industry and Refuge in 1868  
 (WHS1947 35:22), the Methodist and  
 Presbyterian Churches in Hespeler, St James  
 Lutheran Church, Hespeler and Knox's Church,  
 Galt, erected in 1869-70. The bridges at  
 Freeport, Bridgeport, and across the Nith at  
 New Hamburg were also contracted for by  
 Kribs. He also built a store and dwelling at



31-32 Queen Street, Hespeler for John Chapman, the Turnbull factory at Galt and the Forbes factory.

\* Owned saw, shingle, and planing mills in Hespeler where he was also Reeve from 1880 to 1884. (In the Hespeler election of 1878, Kribs was nominated for reeve without his knowledge or consent. Finding it too late to withdraw, he distributed cards to the electors asking them as a personal favour to vote for John Chapman). He was Hespeler village clerk from 1859 to 1866 and Warden of Waterloo County in 1883. He was listed in the Armstrong & Co's Directory of 1878 as a maker of doors, sashes, blinds, and mouldings and also listed under lumber mills, lath, shingles, headings and staves. Also two farms in the Hespeler area, 450 acres at one time but down to 125 acres by 1881. Farmer in 1871 census.

\* He became owner of the Holm flour mills two miles north of Hespeler in 1882; he modernized them and introduced the roller system. His son, William, took over the Holm mill in 1899.

**Sources:** 1871 census; Eby #5106; photo in Oscar Eby; obit Hespeler Herald 19/3/1908p5; OCCA geneal. file under Brewster; Armstrong & Co. directory for 1878

**LATSCH, GEORGE W.,**  
**Township Council:** Councillor 1925  
**Years:** 1

**Born:** 1873, Dec 22 **Died:** 1956, June  
**Family:** son of George Latsch who died in 1935 and was buried in Freeport Pioneer Cemetery  
**Address:** Centreville, RR#3  
**Occupation:** Farmer/veterinarian, breeder and dairy operator  
**Spouse:** Bertha Weber  
**Children:** Vardon S.; Howard E.; Lillian (m. Glen Betterly)  
**Religion:** UBrethren  
**Landholdings:** BOS12  
**Acres:** 138  
**Locality:** Centreville  
**Notes:** Latsch bred Jersey cattle and "in addition to his farming activities he took a keen interest in community affairs and formerly directed local plowing matches" (obit). Township's truancy officer in 1915?  
\* Funeral service was held at Alma Street United Brethren Church  
**Sources:** obit KWR 28/6/1956

**MARTIN, SAMUEL D.,**  
**Township Council:** Councillor 1861, 1862; Reeve 1863  
**Years:** 3 **R-years:** 1  
**Born:** 1820, Feb 9 **Died:** 1903, March 20  
**Family:** third son of Abram B. and Barbara Weaver  
**Address:** Preston  
**Occupation:** Carpenter (1871 census); Farmer; License inspector from 1878  
**Origin:** PA, Lancaster County  
**Migration date:** 1825/1824 (Eby)  
**Spouse:** Mary Lutz  
**Children:** Minerva; Lillian Elsie; Martha; Charles; William; Barbara; Abram L.; Jane L. (m. Franklin Jacobs); Keziah L. (m. Edward Sauder); Mary L. (m. Melvin L. Robinson); Samuel L.; George L.; 6 children died before they were 3  
**Religion:** Mennonite (NA in 1871 census)  
**Politics:** Reformer  
**Landholdings:** BBF26  
**Acres:** 50  
**Locality:** Pine Grove  
**Organizations:** Waterloo Tp, SS 4, Pine Grove  
**Notes:** Before he started farming, he worked as a carpenter and "erected many of the older buildings in Preston. At one time he also operated a brick yard" (obit)  
\* He was a member of the Waterloo Township Road and Bridge Committee in 1861 with Wendell Bowman and a trustee of Pine Grove School during the latter half of the nineteenth century. He was paid 25 pounds in 1850 in account of contract for sheeting the bridge over the Speed at Preston (Snyders, p85). According to Eby, Samuel "followed farming for some time and was inspector of hotels for the South Riding of the county of Waterloo [for 12 years, obit].  
\* "At present he lives retired, and owns a beautiful residence near Dr Lundy's, Preston, where he now resides" (in 1895). Died at home

of daughter, Mrs A.E. Saunders of Saginaw, Michigan. Buried in Hagey Mennonite Cemetery.

Sources: Eby #4611 (refers to him as Samuel W.); obit Galt Weekly Reporter 26/10/1903

**MCKAY, JOHN FINLAY,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1888, 1889, 1890; Third Deputy Reeve 1891 and 1892; Second Deputy Reeve 1893, 1894

**Years:** 7

**Born:** 1847? **Died:** 1924, Sept. 16

**Family:** son of Donald

**Address:** Bloomingdale, GCT77, 156 acres but only 80 acres with ashery on 1881 map; Uttley mentions a former house on South Queen Street where Joseph Schneider first built a log house (WHS1932 20:315); South Queen Street, Berlin (Uttley)

**Occupation:** Farmer/stock dealer; on the editorial board of the Telegraph; grocery store on Queen Street South

**Spouse:** Nancy Nichols

**Children:** Laughlin; Donald

**Religion:** Methodist

**Politics:** Liberal, becoming more independent as he grew older

**Landholdings:** GCT77

**Acres:** 156

**Locality:** Victoria

**Organizations:** Trinity Methodist Church, Berlin

North Waterloo Agricultural Society

Freeport Hospital

**Notes:** His obituary describes him as possessing an intuitiveness, wide knowledge, and an affable disposition. He took a keen interest in public affairs and delighted in debate, writing often to the newspapers. His obituary said that [in the Township] "only the popularity and long service of John M. Sipes who defeated him in the contest for the Reeve's chair prevented him from attaining the highest honors."

\* He farmed his father's land till moved to Kitchener in 1901 where he joined the editorial staff of the Telegraph. He also opened a grocery store on South Queen Street for a time.

\* He was elected to Berlin Town Council, serving as an alderman and running as a candidate for mayor several times. He always polled a high vote "as he enjoyed the confidence of many older citizens." He was a member of the Church Board of Trinity United in 1873 (Uttley). Berlin councillor 1904-5 and 1917-18, 3rd D reeve in 1909-1910, and chair of Berlin Board of Health 1912 when he supported sites for Freeport Sanatorium at Chicopee Heights and German Mills.

Sources: WHS1932 20:315; obit in Kitchener Daily Record 16/9/1924p1; photo Berlin 1912 p134; photo of Berlin Town Council in Buffalo Courier 30/1/1910; Uttley



**MCNALLY, HENRY,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1862, 1863;  
Deputy Reeve 1864, 1865, 1866; First Deputy  
Reeve 1867, 1868; 1869, 1876; Reeve 1870,  
1871, 1875, 1877, 1878

**Years:** 14   **R-years:** 5

**Born:** 1824, June 13   **Died:** 1908, Feb 5

**Family:** son of Sarah Kinzel and Henry

McNally who arrived from Pennsylvania in 1826  
and settled on the Woolwich road just above  
Preston, where they opened a small hostelry;  
brother of Rev. John McNally of the New  
Mennonite Church

**Address:** BOS10 and 11; Blair, on the old  
"Bricker Place" (Eby)

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Origin:** born near Dundas

**Spouse:** Louisa Roth

**Children:** Mary Ann; Sarah; Solinda; Henry

**Religion:** Mennonite

**Landholdings:** BOS11

**Acres:** 154

**Locality:** Blair

**Organizations:** Blair Mills

**Notes:** Warden of Waterloo County 1878. In  
1875 he converted the Blair gristmill into a  
woollen mill with Angus McNally, Oliver  
Clemens, and Moses Eshelman. Oliver Kummer  
quotes his description of the flooding of the  
Grand near Blair shortly after 1850, when the  
Railway Bridge was swept away (WHS1973  
61:36)

\* Note BBF16 (10 acres) sold to father Henry  
McNally November 22, 1824, part of John  
Shupe's estate (WHS1934 22:103)

**Sources:** 1871 census; WHS1934 22:103;  
WHS1973 61:36; Eby #4702; obit Galt Daily  
Reporter 10/2/1908p8c1.

**MITCHELL, WILLIAM,**

**Township Council:** Councillor in 1886, 1893,  
1894

**Years:** 3

**Born:** 1842, Oct 3   **Died:** 1909, Oct 9

(buried at Winterbourne)

**Family:** son of William Mitchell of  
Winterbourne

**Address:** Waterloo/GCT30 (150 acres), P.O.  
Waterloo in 1888 voters' list

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Spouse:** Eliza Burnett

**Children:** James; William; Edward; George;  
Isabel (m. Benj. Playford); Annie (m. Jacob  
Good); Jennie (m. David Groff); Maggie

**Religion:** Presbyterian

**Landholdings:** GCT30

**Acres:** 150

**Locality:** Erbsville

**Organizations:** St Paul's Presbyterian  
Church, Waterloo

Waterloo Tp, SS 10, Erbsville  
Waterloo Township Council

**Notes:** School trustee (for 5 or 25 yrs) and  
fenceviewer; founder, elder and precentor of  
St Paul's Presbyterian Church, Waterloo.

\* "one of the best known farmers in this  
section... a man of most congenial and  
affectionate disposition... kindness of heart  
and willingness to assist where help was  
needed (obits)

**Sources:** obituaries in Chronicle Telegraph  
and Berlin News Record

**MOSER, CHARLES W.,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1930, 1931,  
1932, 1933

**Years:** 4

**Born:** 1868   **Died:** 1961, Nov. 26

**Family:** son of John Z. and Elizabeth Wilhelm

**Address:** 109 Young Street, born on the  
family homestead on Highways 7 & 8, just west  
of Kitchener; GCT35 (1938)

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Spouse:** Mary McGovern

**Children:** Amelia (Millie); Herbert;  
Sebastian (Harry); Cecelia; Eileen

**Religion:** RCatholic

**Landholdings:** GCT35

**Acres:** 178

**Locality:** Elmdale

**Organizations:** St Mary's Roman Catholic  
Church, Kitchener  
Waterloo Tp, SS 8, Elmdale

**Notes:** A Charlie Moser was a school trustee  
for Waterloo Tp, SS 8, Elmdale, in 1906  
(WHS58). By the time his obituary was written  
and he was 92 years old, his stint as  
township councillor was not mentioned.

**Sources:** obituary KWR; WHS1958 46:48

**MOSS, IRVIN,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1943, 1944;

Deputy Reeve 1945

**Years:** 3

**Born:** c1902 **Died:** 1973, Oct. 23

**Family:** Father John K. Moss was son-in-law of Samuel Bowman (Minutes of 1911)

**Address:** GCT54 near Centreville

**Occupation:** Factory foreman, B.F. Goodrich Co., Kitchener

**Spouse:** Mabel Schmidt; Alice Kleinknecht

**Children:** Gerald A.

**Religion:** Mennonite by family

**Landholdings:** GCT53

**Locality:** Centreville

**Organizations:** BF Goodrich Co., Kitchener Waterloo Tp, SS 5, Centreville

**Notes:** According to Henry Janzen, in 1945 it was assumed that Moss would be Reeve the following year. However, a reassessment was held in 1945 that took a great deal of time, and took away from hours that Moss would normally have spent working for BF Goodrich where he was in charge of 50 women. Moss's boss at BF Goodrich told Moss that he could either work for the township or for BF Goodrich, and Moss said that the township's wages couldn't compare. According to his obituary, Moss was a former employee of BF Goodrich and Kaufman Rubber. His address when he died was Wasaga Beach.

\* Foreman (ballot paper for councillor in 1943 in union school assessments v.3)

\* Appointed Building Inspector in June 1940 when A.F. Teahault enlisted; was chair of school board in 1952.

**Sources:** obit KWR 24/10/1973p31; KPL OHT with Henry Janzen

**MOUNSTEPHEN, JOHN E.,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1972

**Years:** 1

**Born:** 1919

**Address:** British Columbia (1995)

**Occupation:** Manager

**Origin:** Toronto

**Religion:** Anglican

**Locality:** Lexington

**Notes:** Lived near Kaufman's Flats.

\* Was later on Waterloo LACAC.

**Sources:** Information from Kathryn Lamb and Mary Johnston

**MOYER, HERBERT R.,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1954, 1955,

1956, 1957, 1958; Deputy Reeve 1959, 1960, 1961

**Years:** 8

**Born:** 1911, April 11

**Family:** son of Edwin and Laura (Brubacher), grandson of Noah Moyer? (Eby)

**Address:** BBF19/BBF20/BBF31: RR#2, Preston

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Spouse:** Myrtle Perschbacher

**Children:** Rosalia; Donald; Larry

**Religion:** United

**Landholdings:** BBF19/20/30

**Acres:** 129

**Locality:** Maple Grove

**Organizations:** Zion United Church, Maple Grove

Waterloo Township Area 1 School Board

**Notes:** Attended Maple Grove school in same year as Edna Hunsperger.

\* Served about 4 years on Waterloo Township Area 1 School Board before running for council.

\* Remembers mainly weekly meetings and amount of business caused by growth in 1950s. Recalls especially being on Police Committee.

\* Very closely concerned with Zion United Church, Maple Grove, as chairman of board for many years. Gave words of greeting from Zion United Church to the Wanner Mennonite Church Christian Education Wing which was dedicated in 1969.

\* Lived in retirement in Ayr apartment since 1983.

**Sources:** WHS vf; Bloomfield conversation



**PEDDAR, THOMAS,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1853 (ward 5), 1854, 1855

**Years:** 3

**Born:** 1805 **Died:** c1876

**Address:** BOS8 W, Tremaine 1861

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Origin:** England

**Spouse:** Jane Bares

**Children:** Mary; Louise

**Religion:** Baptist

**Landholdings:** BOS8-W

**Acres:** 105

**Locality:** English Settlement

**Notes:** BOS8 (W half), Tremaine 1861; he is listed in 1875 AR; widow in 1878 AR, 1881 and 1886 dir; Tremaine map accords him JP status in 1861

**Sources:** 1871 census; assessment rolls and Tremaine map

**PHIN, JAMES P.,**

**Township Council:** Second Deputy Reeve 1884, 1885; First Deputy Reeve 1886; Reeve 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890

**Years:** 7 **R-years:** 4

**Born:** 1841 **Died:** 1901, Jan 24

**Family:** Eldest son of James Phin, a native of Roxburghshire, Scotland, who spent most of his youth in Ireland in County Monaghan in charge of a large estate. James Phin Sr came to Canada in 1833.

**Address:** Hespeler, BLB2/3-13

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Spouse:** Eliza Jane White; Charlotte Roberts

**Children:** Eliza Jane (dau of Eliza) d aged 6 months; George (son of Eliza); Madge (dau of Lottie) d aged 11 yrs; Arthur

**Religion:** Methodist (New Connexion)

**Politics:** Liberal/Reform

**Landholdings:** BLB3-13

**Acres:** 400

**Locality:** Hespeler

**Organizations:** Reform Association

North Dumfries and South Waterloo Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Co.

Guelph and Ontario Investment and Savings Society

South Waterloo Farmers' Institutes

South Wellington Agricultural Society

**Notes:** 400-acre farm on BLB2-13, "The Grange." Both BLB3-13 and BLB2-13 given in HA, pages 32 and 12; WHS74 mentions Phin's purchase of GCT128 in 1872 from Richard Marshall. Phin sold the property to John Shaw in 1882. Panabaker says he owned the farm on which the Spruce Hill nursing home is now located and which included the lands now belonging to John Strycker and George Inglis on the east side of the Guelph highway.

\* President of the Reform Association of the township, a Justice of the Peace; New Connexion Methodist. Considered with his father to be "among the thoroughly

representative agriculturists of the townships" (Historical Atlas) and "noted all over Canada as a breeder of Shropshire sheep and Shorthorn cattle." Panabaker says that a man named Kruger stole sheep from Phin, and that once Kruger was out of jail that "Phin's large barn, together with his crops and herd of purebred cattle was mysteriously burned to the ground on two separate occasions. The horse thief was later blamed for both fires in retaliation for Mr Phin's part in his conviction" (Panabaker, p3).

\* Warden of Waterloo County 1890; Masons

**Sources:** Historical atlas; Panabaker; photo Hespeler Old Boys' Reunion 1906 p48; obit in Chronicle-Telegraph 31/1/1901

**PRANGE, ROY,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1970, 1971, 1972

**Years:** 3

**Born:** 1933, Feb 20

**Address:** Breslau

**Occupation:** Pump business

**Religion:** Lutheran

**Politics:** Conservative

**Locality:** Breslau

**Organizations:** Breslau Recreation Club

**Notes:** 1932 - father had to leave small farm in Brookfield/Beaverdale during depression and settled in Riverbank area on Preston-Breslau road, working as maintenance man at Rubber Machinery works and starting a pump business (incorp. as Prange's Pump Service in 1964). School at Riverbank (recalls Eben Cressman as teacher) until Grade 8; remembers that 4 of 8 in Grade 8 class developed their own businesses.

\* 1962 - built house in subdivision on Menno Street (named for Menno Mader) and owns the water supply service there for 90 houses

\* Recalls others on council, notably reeve Leonard Burton who was an outstanding water diviner. Among other successes helped to find water on Clayton Rickert's new property on the Breslau hill.

\* 1970-2 - council service recalled as frustrating and unproductive. Council was "spinning wheels" and "dictated to [by] developers and bureaucrats. "Mr Isley did a good job" and township could have been run by Gordon Cooper who kept administration running smoothly and very efficiently.

**Sources:** Newspapers; not in the database

**QUICKFALL, RICHARD M.,**

**Township Council:** Councillor in 1864; Third Deputy Reeve in 1895;

**Years:** 2

**Born:** 1833, March 16 **Died:** 1910, Nov 15

**Family:** son of Thomas and Hannah Martinson

**Address:** Waterloo, GCT6 E

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Origin:** England via Syracuse, NY

**Migration date:** 1838

**Spouse:** Leah Groff

**Children:** Emma May (m. John McNally); Allen Edwin; Charles Allan; George Thomas; Anna Laura; Albert Clarke

**Religion:** Methodist

**Politics:** Reformer

**Landholdings:** GCT6E

**Acres:** 224

**Locality:** Bridgeport

**Notes:** First lived on family farm (Moxley or Evergreen), a little NE of Waterloo. In 1889 he moved to a farm about a mile N of Bridgeport (Eby).

\* Assessor and trustee. He improved the family farm and planted many ornamental and fruit trees. He owned a mill on Beaver Creek one mile west of Bridgeport Brickyard in 1875 (WHS18) and attended the reunion of the first Waterloo schoolhouse in 1895, having been a pupil in the log building (WHS28). There is a photograph of this 1895 reunion with Richard in it at the Waterloo Public Library, call number J-12-19. M. & J. Snyder record the death of 26-year-old Richard Quickfall who was born in 1916.

\* "Progressive in his ideas he prospered financially, but the spirit of charity was strong within him and many have received from him a helping hand... He could tell of Berlin when it was but a mere village and his intimate friends were frequently entertained by the interesting reminiscences of the early days of life in this county" (obit in Berlin

News Record 15/11/1910)

\* 170-acre Quickfall farm on Lincoln Road, Waterloo, acquired by father Quickfall from Moxley in 1846, became a 149-home subdivision in 1960 (WHS60) after six generations of Quickfalls had farmed it.

**Sources:** View of Evergreen Farm in Historical atlas; Eby #5128; M. & J. Snyder; obit in Berlin News Record 15/11/1910); photograph of 1895 reunion of Waterloo school pupils including Richard is at WPL with call number J-12-19; see also photo in Howse; WHS1960 48:71; WHS1918 6:21; WHS1928 16:33,44; Nora Quickfall Bomberger, Well do I remember...



**RANDALL, GEORGE,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1864, 1865, 1866; Second Deputy Reeve 1867, 1868, 1869.

**Years:** 6

**Born:** 1832, April 16 **Died:** 1908, Dec 23

**Address:** 1860- Spring Valley Farm, GCT20 west of Berlin; 1873- Waterloo, King Street, previously the home of Isaac Weaver, and later the site of the Mutual Life Insurance Company's main building

**Occupation:** Contractor; Miller/distiller;

Tobacco manufacturer; Woollen manufacturer

**Origin:** Chesterfield, NH

**Migration date:** To Waterloo 1857/Canada 1854

**Spouse:** Caroline Roos

**Children:** George; Mrs Clara Chalcraft; Emma

**Religion:** Universalist; Presbyterian

**Politics:** Conservative

**Landholdings:** GCT19/GCT20/GCT21

**Acres:** 263

**Locality:** Elmdale

**Organizations:** Berlin Quadrille Society

Waterloo Mutual Fire Insurance Co.

Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital Board

Grand Trunk Railway

Great Western Railway

Randall and Roos, Berlin

Randall and Co, merchant millers and distillers, Waterloo

Randall, Farr and Co., Hespeler

Preston Railway Station

Waterloo Distillery

Berlin High School Board

Waterloo Horticultural Society

**Notes:** Randall was born in the United States and came to Canada in 1854 with his uncle, Marshall H. Farr, who had contracts for station buildings from Guelph westward on the Grand Trunk Railway and also some on the Great Western Railway, including the Preston station buildings. George and his brother Shubel took over the contracts following their uncle's death near Hamilton on the

Desjardins canal project. On completion of the contracts, George engaged in various kinds of manufacturing including a Waterloo distillery that was later owned by the Seagram family. Randall, Farr & Co. bought a sawmill from Jacob Hespeler in 1863 where they erected a large woollen mill which they sold in 1874 to Schofield and Forbes. Randall established the wholesale grocery and liquor warehouse of Randall and Roos in 1884 in Berlin with William Roos, and was a director in the Waterloo Mutual Fire Insurance Company for 33 years (1875-1908) and president from 1890-1908. An 1860s directory notes his occupation as tobacco manufacturer (Uttley).

\* He was also Reeve of the Town of Waterloo, Mayor, and Warden of Waterloo County; Magistrate of Waterloo from 1870-1873; Mayor of Waterloo 1878.

\* One of 15 managers of the Berlin Quadrille Society in 1861; president of the first Board of Trustees for the Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital c1893, and a member of the Berlin High School Board of Trustees.

**Sources:** WHS vf; WHS1918 6:23; WHS1930 18:184; WHS1933 21:52; WHS1959 47:47; Uttley; 100 years of progress-photo of house on King Street p37 and of him p47

**RANDALL, JOHN A.,**

**Township Council:** Deputy Reeve 1964, 1965

**Years:** 2

**Born:** 1916 **Died:** 1970, June 26

**Family:** son of Jacob C. Randall of Preston

**Address:** GCT106; RR#2, Breslau/106 Viewmont Close

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Spouse:** Bernice Lichty

**Children:** Ronald J.; Keith E.; Connie (m. Donald Krupp)

**Religion:** United

**Landholdings:** GCT106

**Acres:** 116

**Locality:** Shantz Station

**Organizations:** Zion United Church, Kitchener Kitchener Rotary Club

R. and S. Transport Co. Ltd

Waterloo Township Planning Board

Waterloo Township Area 1 School Board

Waterloo Township Plowmen's Association

**Notes:** Randall served several terms on the township area public school board in the 1950s. He was appointed to the township planning board around 1960 and named its chairman in 1961. He left this position when he ran for council in 1963. He ended his political career after running unsuccessfully for township reeve in 1965. Randall founded and operated the R. and S. Transport Co. Ltd. He was a member of Zion United Church and the Kitchener Rotary Club. His farm was headquarters for the International Plowing Match of 1954, the match that was interrupted by Hurricane Hazel. He died from injuries suffered in a tractor accident.

**Sources:** photo in obit in KPL vf kwcb; KWR 14/11/1963

**REIST, OWEN,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905; Reeve 1906, 1907

**Years:** 8 **R-years:** 2

**Born:** 1866, Feb 4 **Died:** 1931, Sept 21

**Family:** son of Peter and Mary Shantz

**Address:** Kossuth

**Occupation:** Veterinary Surgeon

**Spouse:** Ellen Bear

**Children:** Levi Stanley

**Religion:** Methodist

**Landholdings:** GCT89

**Acres:** 280

**Locality:** Kossuth

**Notes:** Born in Woolwich. Lived on father's farm at GCT89 in 1895, located on Fisher's Creek near the Speed River, north of Fisher's Mills where Joshua Shoemaker had built a sawmill that was later abandoned. Received his degree from the Ontario Veterinary College in 1888. In 1892 he acquired his father's farm, and added more land to it, making it nearly 300 acres. He was Sanitary Inspector for Waterloo Township 1891-1900, when he resigned to "accept a seat in the Township council." He was appointed JP in 1902 and re-appointed in 1905. He was also a school trustee and recording steward for the Zion circuit of the Methodist Church.

**Sources:** Eby #5215; photo in 100 years p27; obit KWR 21/9/1931

**RICKERT, CLAYTON,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1950, 1951, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961; Deputy Reeve 1953, 1962, 1963; Reeve 1954, 1955.

**Years:** 11 **R-years:** 2

**Born:** 1902 **Died:** 1991, Sept 7

**Family:** raised in Mannheim area

**Address:** RR#1, Breslau

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Spouse:** Clara Kurt

**Children:** Carl; John; Ken; Willis; Mrs

Dorothy Soligo

**Religion:** Lutheran

**Landholdings:** GCT72/73

**Acres:** 97

**Locality:** Breslau

**Organizations:** Ontario Pioneer Community Foundation

St Paul's Lutheran Church, Bridgeport

Children's Aid Society

**Notes:** Raised in Mannheim, married in 1924 and moved into Waterloo for two years, where worked for Reitzel Bros.

\* Bought 97-acre farm on GCT72/73 in 1926 from David Thaler; in 1947 moved to adjoining farm for 3 years while sons worked the first Farm.

\* In 1950, sold second farm and moved to house on Regional Road 17.

\* Got into township politics because concerned about rising taxes. Served on most committees, including police, road and bridge, planning. On County Roads committee too. Son Carl recalls that he enjoyed his time in politics.

\* A founding member of the Ontario Pioneer Community Foundation in 1954. Recreations were cards and horseshoe pitching (the latter played at County picnics).

\* Last 28 years in Florida; died at Bradenton FL, where two sons lived.

**Sources:** Newspapers; WHS; obit KWR 9/9/1991 pA11; son Carl March 1995.

**SCHAEFER, FREDERIC,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1896, 1899; Third Deputy Reeve 1897, 1898; Reeve 1900, 1901

**Years:** 6 **R-years:** 2

**Born:** 1849, July 12 **Died:** 1944, Jan 18

**Address:** Breslau, owned village lot, house and shop valued at \$1,600/ HA; New Hamburg

**Occupation:** Blacksmith; Brick manufacturer

**Spouse:** Catherine Serth

**Children:** Mrs Loretta Daniells; William;

?Chesley; Morris; Mrs Otto Luening; Mrs

William Walther

**Religion:** Lutheran

**Landholdings:** GCT114, Breslau PO (1886 voters' list)

**Locality:** Breslau

**Organizations:** Breslau Brick and Tile Yard

Breslau Post Office

**Notes:** Born in Wellesley Township

\* 1867 - learned blacksmithing trade with Valentine Gildner of Wellesley village for three years. He worked 2 years as journeyman blacksmith with William Doersam, also of Wellesley.

\* 1872 - came to Breslau, leasing Henry Koch's blacksmith shop.

\* 1875 - built blacksmith and wagon shop later operated by Mr Geiger.

\* 1906 - owner of Breslau's largest industry, the Breslau Brick and Tile Yard. It was established in 1886 and employed about 20 men and had 4 kilns. In 1900 the company produced about a million white bricks a year and thousands of tiles, requiring a 34 horse power engine instead of the two horses originally used to propel the machinery (Newcombe). In 1912 the brickyard was sold to a Toronto firm and went out of business shortly after. The white bricks were made from clay dug at the Schmalz farm on the hill. He also bought a brick business in New Hamburg about the turn of the 20th century.



\* Postmaster of Breslau from January 1889 to about 1900 and a member of Waterloo County Council in 1906: he was a member of the County Council for 6 years. He also acted as a Breslau constable. From a KWR article from 13 July 1940, "Oldest New Hamburg Man" it appears he later bought a farm in New Hamburg which was subsequently reforested.

\* Catherine Shafer received a 100 acre farm, part of Horning's Tract, deeded by Elizabeth Hess to her on Aug. 26, 1825. The tract was a narrow strip of land running eastward from the Grand River where Bridgeport now is (WHS1934 22:94) but not sure if this Catherine is related.

Sources: 100 years of progress p64 and photo p12; KPL vf watco cb; Newcombe

# SCHEIFELE, ALVIN,

**Township Council:** Councillor 1939

**Years:** 1

**Born:** 1878 **Died:** 1971, April 13

**Family:** son of Mr and Mrs Aaron Scheifele

**Address:** GCT34, RR 3, Waterloo for the 12 years before he died

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Spouse:** Emma Bingeman

**Children:** Mrs Miriam Trussler; Alice; Clifford D.; Verna; Edythe (m. A.A. Mayor)

**Religion:** United

**Landholdings:** GCT34

**Acres:** 209

**Locality:** Rummelhardt

**Organizations:** Zion United Church, Kitchener

**Notes:** He was born in Woolwich Township and farmed at Kitchener and Breslau (including site of 1950s school). According to Henry Janzen, he farmed near Rummelhardt (Glasgow Street) and retired to Breslau. He died of cancer. According to Jerome Reinhart, entered politics when concerned at what was happening to farmland west of Kitchener. Council Minutes of 13 July 1940 refer to Court action re the Glasgow Road Extension - Scheifele appeared, contending "very unfair treatment" and to "solicit patronage in his behalf."

**Sources:** WTC minutes 13/7/1940; obit KWR 13/4/1971

# SCHLUETER, LORNE,

**Township Council:** Councillor 1952, 1953, 1954

**Years:** 3

**Born:** 1915 **Died:** 1975, April 15

**Family:** son of Emmanuel and Ida Shantz

**Address:** GCT47, Williamsburg

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Spouse:** Gladys Helfers

**Children:** Carole Ann (m. Paul Sandham ; Sharon (m. Brent Parsons)

**Religion:** Lutheran

**Landholdings:** GCT 47

**Locality:** Williamsburg

**Organizations:** St James Lutheran Church, Mannheim

**Notes:** First farmed in Wilmot Township

\* Farm at junction of Ottawa and Fischer-Hallman, sold in 1950s.

**Sources:** obit KWR 16/4/1975; buried at St James Lutheran Church, Mannheim.

**SCHNARR, EDWARD,**  
**Township Council:** Councillor 1945, 1946, 1947;  
 Deputy Reeve 1948; Reeve 1949, 1950, 1951  
**Years:** 7 **R-years:** 3  
**Born:** 1888, December 28 **Died:** 1952, June 8  
**Family:** Eldest of John August and Maria Helm  
**Address:** GCT45/GCT44; RR #3, Waterloo  
**Occupation:** Farmer  
**Migration date:** Charles Demetrius Schnarr  
 (grandfather) arrived in 1853.  
**Spouse:** Alma Hergott, married 18 January  
 1917  
**Children:** Howard A.; Arnold; Ralph; Lorne;  
 Albert; Leonard; Morris  
**Religion:** RCatholic  
**Landholdings:** GCT45/GCT44  
**Acres:** 198  
**Locality:** Erbsville  
**Organizations:** St Agatha Roman Catholic Church  
 Knights of Columbus  
 Holy Name Society  
 The League of the Sacred Heart  
**Notes:** Born in Erbsville; he was referred to  
 as a "progressive" farmer and had previously  
 served as assessor and school trustee before  
 becoming a councillor. He retired as a  
 result of ill-health.  
 \* Ancestor Charles Demetrius bought 4 lots of  
 Lot 45 on both sides of Water Street (later  
 renamed Schnarr Street) off King St (now  
 Erbsville Road) and built 5-room log house on  
 Lot 2, Erbsville, in 1856; demolished 1897.  
 Assembled 5 parcels (91.76 acres) of Lot 45  
 between 1873 and 1880; (a yellow-brick house  
 was built 1878) sold to son August in 1897.  
 Also a second farm of 106.75 acres in 1914 in  
 Lot 44 GCT. August sold to son Edward in 1941  
 (Hydro was then installed)  
 \* Edward operated property as purebred  
 Holstein farm from 1917 to 1952; land sold to  
 developer in 1968.  
**Sources:** KPL vf Schnarr family; Howard  
 Schnarr's The Schnarrs of Erbsville

**SCHNEIDER, HERBERT J.,**  
**Township Council:** Councillor 1964, 1965,  
 1966, 1967  
**Years:** 4  
**Born:** 1926  
**Family:** Son of Norman C. and Ethel Lapsley  
**Address:** Edgehill Drive, RR1, Preston  
**Occupation:** Executive of meatpacking  
 business  
**Spouse:** Betty Ruppel  
**Children:** Four children  
**Religion:** Swedenborgian  
**Politics:** Liberal  
**Locality:** Pine Grove  
**Organizations:** J.M. Schneider Ltd, Kitchener  
 Waterloo Township Citizens Committee  
 Pine Grove Community Association  
 Church of the Good Shepherd, Kitchener  
**Notes:** Vice President and plant  
 superintendent of J.M. Schneider Ltd in 1963  
 \* President of Pine Grove Community  
 Association  
 \* Member of the Waterloo County Area  
 Planning Board in 1967  
 \* Election platform in later 1963 stressed  
 Township's need of "sound business  
 procedures, initiative and wise planning in  
 ...administration... in immediate years  
 ahead... when very important decisions...  
 [with] long-term effects"  
**Sources:** KPL vf watco cb; KWR 13/11/1963;  
 Waterloo Township scrapbooks in WHS archives

**SCOTT, JOHN,**  
**Township Council:** Reeve 1852, 1853  
**Years:** 2 **R-years:** 2  
**Born:** 1814, Jan 25 **Died:** 1856, Dec 21  
**Family:** son of Charles Scott who settled in  
 Dumfries Township on Blenheimhill farm  
**Address:** Berlin/Queen and Weber Streets  
**Occupation:** Physician  
**Origin:** Scotland, Roxburghshire,  
 Lilliesleaf, Bewlie Mains  
**Migration date:** 1834  
**Spouse:** daughter of William Smith, and  
 married to M.C. Schofield after Scott's death  
**Children:** Charles J.  
**Religion:** Swedenborgian  
**Politics:** Tory/Conservative  
**Landholdings:** Berlin  
**Locality:** Berlin  
**Organizations:** Berlin Grammar School Board  
 of Trustees  
 Grand Trunk Railway  
 Preston and Berlin Railway  
 Church of the Good Shepherd, Kitchener  
**Notes:** First Warden of Waterloo County 1853  
 (elected May 1852), shown as 1852 to 1856 in  
 100 years; and first Reeve of Berlin 1854-56.  
 A transcript of Scott's speech on being  
 elected Warden in 1852 is in WHS1951 39:11.  
 He graduated from the University of Edinburgh  
 Medical School in 1834, the same year he  
 arrived in Waterloo County. His arrival  
 coincided with an outbreak of cholera in Galt  
 that he helped to combat. He began his  
 practice in Berlin that same year as the  
 first licensed physician, and upheld his  
 professionalism before quacks and charlatans.  
 In 1849 Scott and Dr James Whiting were  
 appointed to report to the Health Board on  
 the state of health in Berlin. A.B. Sherk  
 recollected that the "doctors did most of  
 their outside professional work on horseback,  
 and everybody knew them" (WHS1915 3:18).  
 Scott had three horses. He was also coroner



for the county for many years and was appointed Revenue Inspector in 1852. He was also a member of the first Berlin Grammar School Board of School Trustees and the first Local Superintendent. As Warden he loaded the first wheelbarrow at the breaking of ground for the railway line at Berlin in 1853. Dr Scott was converted to the Swedenborgian Church by Rev. John Harbin, formerly a surgeon in the British army, who assisted the doctor with his surgical operations. He died of a "malignant liver complaint." W.H.

Breithaupt sums up his life as "short, and to a high degree, useful" (WHS1941 29:198)

\* Before he moved to Weber Street, Scott had a two storey frame building with a drug store on King and Frederick (WHS1930 18:196)

Sources: WHS1915 3:18; WHS1951 39:11;

WHS1941 29:198; WHS1989 77; 1851 census

#### **SHAFFER, WILLIAM,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886; Third Deputy Reeve 1887

**Years:** 8

**Born:** 1839 (1861 census)

**Address:** GCT20 SW (1886 voters' list and 1881 map - 200 acres on south side of Petersburg Road)

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Religion:** Evangelical

**Landholdings:** GCT20 SW

**Acres:** 200

**Locality:** Elmdale

**Notes:** A W. Schaefer was a councillor in Berlin's west ward in 1895 (M. & J. Snyder p268)

**Sources:** M. & J. Snyder p268; 1886 voters' list and 1881 map

#### **SHANTZ, ISAAC E.,**

**Township Council:** 1872 (for 3 months after sudden death of Isaac E. Burkholder 23 Sept 1872)

**Years:** 1

**Born:** 1839, May 23 **Died:** 1908, Jan 11

**Family:** son of Samuel and Susannah (Erb)

**Address:** Bridgeport; Berlin (College St)

**Occupation:** Merchant; Planing mill; Foundry (later in Berlin)

**Spouse:** Magdalena Eby, dau of Elias

**Children:** Josiah; Dilman; Edmund; Elmina; Mary Ann; Milton E.

**Religion:** Mennonite

**Landholdings:** Bridgeport

**Locality:** Bridgeport

**Organizations:** I.E. Shantz and Co., Berlin

**Notes:** In business as merchant and planing mill operator in 1871, becoming postmaster in 1878 when also advertised in Armstrong directory (see Panabaker, WHS33:35). Bridgeport postmaster from 1 July 1878 to 1883

\* c1883 - moved to Berlin, first "conducting the store now occupied by Beck & Schell"

\* In Berlin with foundry making furnaces etc by 1890s, with assistance of J.Y. Shantz (and succeeding the Maude Foundry). In 1893, tendered to put steam heating into the county jail

\* "was of a quiet and unassuming disposition and while he took a keen interest in municipal affairs of Berlin he did not take an active part in its government" (obit from Berlin paper)

**Sources:** Eby #6799, CANIND71; WHS24, WS79:57, WHS79, WHS77, WHS68, obit Berlin Daily Telegraph 13/1/1908p1

**SHANTZ, SAMUEL,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1851, 1854, 1855, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860; Deputy Reeve 1856

**Years:** 8

**Born:** 1811, Jan 16 **Died:** 1892, Jan 18

**Family:** Son of Isaac Shantz and Esther Bechtel

**Address:** GCT38/GCT39, 3 miles west of Berlin

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Spouse:** Susannah Erb, 1810-1844 (m.1830) - 10 children; Rebecca Rudy, 1825 (m.1845) - 12 children

**Children:** Levi; Ira; Mary Ann (m. David Bean); Nancy (m. Abraham Rudy); Samuel E.; Odo; Isaac E.; Menno E.; Barbara E.; Aaron E.; Daniel; Esther (m. Menno Shoemaker); Abraham ; Moses R.; Emily (m. Samuel C. Bowman); Josiah; Nelson; Matilda (m. Noah E. Eby); Israel R.; Allen R.; Louisa Rebecca (m. Benjamin E. Eby); Simon R.

**Religion:** Mennonite

**Landholdings:** GCT39

**Acres:** 241

**Locality:** Elmdale

**Organizations:** Waterloo Tp, SS 8, Elmdale Waterloo Mutual Fire Insurance Co.

**Notes:** Farmed GCT38/GCT39, 3 miles west of Berlin (241 in 1861 and 1881, but 350 acres sometimes quoted) "one of the finest farms on the Petersburg Road" (Eby)

\* Shantz was a director of the Waterloo Mutual Fire Insurance Company, and trustee of Elmdale School in 1847.

\* Eby (#6792): "Although deprived of first class school privileges and his time devoted to constant labour on his father's farm, his desire for information made him seek opportunities for acquiring knowledge... His stock of knowledge and experience made him a wise counsellor and judicious adviser...on public and private interests."

**Sources:** Eby #6792

**SHANTZ, SAMUEL E.,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906; Deputy Reeve 1907; Reeve 1908, 1909

**Years:** 8 **R-years:** 2

**Born:** 1859, Feb 16 **Died:** 1938, Feb 19

**Family:** son of Samuel Y. and Esther Erb

**Address:** Part of father's homestead 2.5 miles SW of Berlin (Eby); Roseville Highway

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Spouse:** Lucinda Shoemaker

**Children:** Silva; Bella May; Percy

**Religion:** Methodist

**Landholdings:** GCT50/GCT47

**Acres:** 227

**Locality:** German Mills

**Organizations:** Trinity Methodist Church, Berlin

Trinity United Church, Kitchener

Kitchener Suburban Good Roads Commission

North Waterloo Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Co.

**Notes:** He was a director of the North Waterloo Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Co., a member of the Waterloo Township Board of Health for 5 years. A trustee of Trinity Methodist Church, Berlin/Trinity United Church, Kitchener.

**Sources:** Eby #6775; photo in 100 years of progress p27.

**SHANTZ, TILMAN S.,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1884, 1885; Second Deputy Reeve 1886, 1887; First Deputy Reeve 1888, 1889, 1890; Reeve 1892, 1896

**Years:** 8 **R-years:** 2

**Born:** 1850, Jan 8 **Died:** 1913, Sept 10

**Family:** son of Moses and Catharine Shantz

**Address:** GCT9 NE, about 3 miles north of Waterloo

**Occupation:** Farmer/breeder

**Spouse:** Esther Snyder

**Children:** Harvey; Alvin H.; Alfred E.; Urias A.; Angus M.; Walter W.; Elsie L.; Clementina; Ezra Ervine

**Religion:** Evangelical

**Politics:** Liberal: "he always takes an active part in political matters and strongly advocates the platform taken by the Liberals of this province" (Eby)

**Landholdings:** GCT9 NE

**Acres:** 128

**Locality:** Martin's

**Notes:** Prize-winning farmer in 1880-1; "one of the best known and most prosperous farmers of Waterloo County" (obit)

\* Warden of Waterloo County 1902

\* School trustee (Martin's?); assessor to 1913.

\* Died after being thrown beneath a team of horses: "Mr Shantz was driving a team of horses, hitched to a threshing machine, when they became unmanageable and bolted, throwing their driver beneath them" (obit)

**Sources:** Eby #6861; obit Galt Weekly Reporter 18/9/1913p4; photo of 1901 Waterloo County Councillors at Doon Heritage Crossroads



**SHAW, WILLIAM COWAN,**  
**Township Council:** Councillor 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911; Deputy Reeve 1912, 1913; Reeve 1914, 1915  
**Years:** 8 **R-years:** 2  
**Born:** 1855, March 19 **Died:** 1942, Oct 21  
**Family:** son of James Shaw (1809-1881) and Margaret Cowan  
**Address:** Lake Road, just outside Hespeler; BLB3-7/8; Moved into Hespeler on Lewis St. on his retirement in 1939  
**Occupation:** Farmer  
**Spouse:** Mary Ann Cober  
**Children:** J. Horace; Elizabeth  
**Religion:** Presbyterian  
**Politics:** Conservative  
**Landholdings:** BLB3-7/8  
**Acres:** 170  
**Locality:** Hespeler  
**Organizations:** St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Hespeler  
 South Waterloo Agricultural Society  
 South Waterloo Mutual Fire Insurance Co.  
 New Hope Masonic Lodge, Hespeler  
 Hespeler Public School Board  
**Notes:** The east part of lot 8, concession 4 of Waterloo Township was sold to William Shaw in 1890 by Lewis Kribs. He lived in Doon for three years. In 1924 he unsuccessfully contested the seat for S. Waterloo in the provincial by-election. His farm "has been for years one of the model farms in this district." "As the representative of SS 26 of Waterloo Township in union with Hespeler, he served for over 25 years on the Hespeler Public School Board." He was Warden of Waterloo County in 1915. His obituary noted that he was "possessed of a kindly nature and a genial good humor which had won him a host of friends throughout this district."  
**Sources:** obit in Hespeler Herald, 22/10/42 is the source of most information

**SHOEMAKER, ALEXANDER,**  
**Township Council:** Third Deputy Reeve 1888, 1889, 1890; Second Deputy Reeve 1891  
**Years:** 4  
**Born:** 1836, Feb 21 **Died:** 1908, Aug 29  
**Family:** son of Jacob D. and Jane Dunbar  
**Address:** GCT19 SW  
**Occupation:** Farmer  
**Spouse:** Susannah Weber  
**Children:** Ellen; Josiah; Matilda; Susannah; Louisa; Malinda (m. Charles E. Lips); David; Angeline; Edwin; Lydia Ann; Lovina; Irwin; Edith  
**Religion:** Mennonite; Evangelical  
**Politics:** Liberal  
**Landholdings:** GCT19/36 (1886 voters'list)  
**Acres:** 224  
**Locality:** Nine Pines  
**Organizations:** Zion Evangelical Church, Berlin  
**Notes:** Farmed land developed by father: cleared 1830, stone dwelling 1851, frame barn 1842. 224 acres (Eby); photograph shows where his farm is (M. & J. Snyder p122); retired from farming to Berlin in 1906  
**Sources:** Eby #7056; obit Berlin News Record 31/8/1908; M. & J. Snyder p122

**SHOEMAKER, ALLEN,**  
**Township Council:** Councillor 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923; Second Deputy Reeve 1924; First Deputy Reeve 1925, 1926; Reeve 1927, 1928, 1929  
**Years:** 10 **R-years:** 3  
**Born:** 1866, Sept 25 **Died:** 1945, May 27  
**Family:** son of David M. Shoemaker and Jane Ann Hamacher  
**Address:** GCT19/GCT48  
**Occupation:** Farmer/tile manufacturer  
**Spouse:** Catharine Oberholtzer; Mary Simpson  
**Children:** Had 2 children with Catharine; Cecil; Euphemia (m. Lorne Neilly); Irene; Mary Belle  
**Religion:** Presbyterian  
**Landholdings:** GCT19/GCT48  
**Acres:** 215  
**Locality:** Nine Pines  
**Organizations:** Waterloo Tp, SS 23, Nine Pines St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Kitchener Grand River Masonic Lodge, Number 151, A.F. and A.M., Kitchener  
**Notes:** Was educated at Waterloo Township SS 23, Nine Pines, and later served as a school trustee there for 18 years and as secretary-treasurer for 12 years. Report of a lawsuit concerning a dispute between Allan and Simpson Shoemaker over a piece of property on Shoemaker Avenue in 1942 (M & J Snyder, p338)  
 \* Farmer/tile manufacturer (60 years); managed his father's farm, the old Abraham D. homestead (Eby) where his grandfather had sawmills  
 \* 1942 - retired from farm to Kitchener.  
**Sources:** photo in Confederation number p29; Eby #7150; M & J Snyder, p338; obit KWR 28/5/1945

**SHOEMAKER, DAVID M.,**

**Township Council:** Second Deputy Reeve in 1892; First Deputy Reeve 1893, 1894

**Years:** 3

**Born:** 1839, Sept 28 **Died:** 1920, Sept 30

**Family:** son of Abraham D. and Mary Miller

**Address:** GCT48, Berlin

**Occupation:** Miller (saw and grist)

**Spouse:** Jane Ann Hamacher

**Children:** Lucinda (m. Samuel E. Shantz); Ida

Minerva (m. Jacob B. Oberholtzer); Allan;

Simon; Mary Jane; Wesley

**Religion:** Swedenborgian

**Landholdings:** GCT48

**Acres:** 146

**Locality:** Nine Pines

**Organizations:** Grand River Masonic Lodge, Number 151, A.F. and A.M., Berlin

**Notes:** He lived on his father's old homestead where Abraham D. had contracted a dam and erected sawmills. A large lumber business was carried on there until the end of the 19th century when the Berlin Water Works Company bought the water privilege and several acres of land, causing the removal of the sawmills. He was reeve of Berlin from January 1877.

\* According to Uttley, D.S. Shoemaker and James Potter were partners with William Simpson in a furniture factory. Uttley recounts that when Shoemaker was a Berlin Councillor in 1877, his plans to improve King Street from Mennonite church to Waterloo were halted by store owners who feared for their livelihoods and one merchant personally threatened D.S., who was not re-elected the next term (Hannes S p290).

\* Retired to farm by c1890.

\* "one of the prime movers of fall fairs held in this vicinity" (obit)

**Sources:** Eby #7147; obit WC 30/9/1920

**SIPES, JOHN NELSON,**

**Township Council:** Second Deputy Reeve 1888, 1889, 1890; First Deputy Reeve 1892; Reeve 1893, 1894, 1895

**Years:** 7 **R-years:** 3

**Born:** 1842 **Died:** 1928, Nov 13

**Address:** Blair PO (1886 voters' list)

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Spouse:** Lydia Kiefhaber

**Children:** Norman; Allan; daughter, Mrs Kroh

**Religion:** Mennonite (AR 1901)

**Politics:** "Farmers' Ticket"

**Landholdings:** BOS4

**Acres:** 291

**Locality:** Blair

**Organizations:** Galt Masonic Lodge

**Notes:** John Sipes was a partner with Joseph Stauffer in a livery business on Main St, Galt (before 1891); then he moved to a farm in Blair area

\* 1894- candidate for the provincial legislature on the "farmers' ticket" opposed by the Prohibitionists as was J.D. Moore (Galt Reporter 9/2/1894). "A very active politician, taking a keen interest in the affairs of his township, the province and the dominion at large and was well posted on all the big issues of the day" (obit Galt Reporter 13/11/1928, p1)

\* For 25 years was the township assessor for Ward 5; Blair school trustee. Bridge inspector for county following work as county councillor.

**Sources:** 1871 census; Doon/Blair Tweedsmuir (no "N." in the 1871 census or Tweedsmuir history); Galt Reporter 9/2/1894; obit in Hespeler Herald 13/11/1928 and Galt Reporter 13/11/1928 p1; photo in Hespeler Old Boys' Reunion Committee of 1906 p42

**SNIDER, ELIAS,**

**Township Council:** Deputy Reeve 1850; Reeve 1851; Councillor 1852

**Years:** 3 **R-years:** 1

**Born:** 1815, Sept 3 **Died:** 1890, April 24

**Family:** son of Jacob C. Snider, who came from Pennsylvania (Franklin Co) in 1806 to Waterloo, and Elizabeth Cressman (and grandson of Christian and Elizabeth Erb Schneider)

**Address:** Berlin/172 King St S, Waterloo (Abraham Erb's), from 1851-1869

**Occupation:** Grist mill owner

**Spouse:** Hannah Bingeman

**Children:** Elizabeth; Mary; Israel; Isaac B.; Elias W.B.; William; John; Tilman B.; Jacob B.; Amos B.; Hannah; Jonas

**Religion:** Mennonite

**Landholdings:** BET/GCT7/GCT12/GCT51 (1861)

**Acres:** 688

**Locality:** German Mills

**Organizations:** Snider's Mill, Waterloo German Mills Steam Flour Mills

**Notes:** A practical miller and businessman from a young age, he purchased 310 acres from Barnabas Devitt for 1500 pounds in 1851. In 1853 Jacob Snider gave his land and Waterloo Mill to Elias, who sold most of the land a year later to John Hoffman and Isaac Weaver, keeping the grist mill property and dam (WHS1974 62:74). While Jacob had operated a distillery, Elias didn't. In 1879 the mill was sold to Elias's son William and Aaron Kraft, becoming known as Union Mills (see WHS1979 67:69 for detailed history of mill ownership). In 1854 Elias purchased the Musselman Farm about a mile north of Waterloo, and in 1860 the German Mills with 669 acres of land. Elias was ordained to the ministry of the Mennonite body in 1874; and was preacher at David Eby's thereafter. Assessed with 228 acres in 1881.

\* Mention of a fire breaking out in June 26,



1876 at the Elias Snider swamp, which the Waterloo Fire Department attended to.  
Sources: WHS1974 62:74; WHS1979 67:69; Eby #5819

**SNIDER, HAROLD JACOB,**  
**Township Council:** Councillor 1946, 1947; Clerk/Treasurer for 1952, 1953, 1954 and 1955.  
**Years:** 2  
**Born:** 1911, Oct 25 **Died:** 1981, Jul 11  
**Family:** son of Peter A. Snider and Eliza Jane Strong  
**Address:** GCT67S; Bloomingdale  
**Occupation:** Farmer/storekpr  
**Spouse:** Margaret Bechtel  
**Children:** Kenneth; Frances (m. Wayne Starr); Neil  
**Religion:** UBrethren  
**Landholdings:** GCT67  
**Acres:** 108  
**Locality:** Bloomingdale  
**Organizations:** Waterloo Township District High School Board  
United Brethren Church, Bloomingdale  
**Notes:** Farmer until end of 1946 when sold farm to Arthur Hachborn and moved with his family into Bloomingdale where operated Snider's Market  
\* Waterloo Township assessor, tax collector and assessment commissioner; secretary-treasurer for Waterloo Township District High School Board in 1961.  
**Sources:** obit KWR 11/7/1981p27; photo Elmira Independent 15/7/1981 p1; KPL vf kwcb

**SNIDER, HENRY,**  
**Township Council:** Councillor 1850, 1853; Deputy Reeve 1851, 1852, 1854, 1855, 1857, 1858  
**Years:** 8  
**Born:** 1811, Feb 2 **Died:** 1877, Jan 22  
**Family:** youngest child of the ten children of Jacob (Yoch) and Mary Erb  
**Address:** Bloomingdale/Woolwich Township; part WT6/WT7 and Oxbow: south side of Snyder's Flats road, west of Bloomingdale  
**Occupation:** Farmer/miller  
**Spouse:** Elizabeth Snider; Margaret Brehm  
**Children:** Noah; Menno S.; Sarah (m. John B.Snyder); Aaron; Simon S.; Rachel; Susannah (m. Isaac B. Wismer); Josiah; Elizabeth (m. Henry W. Whyder); Reuben B.; Mary Ann B. (m. Jacob W. Snyder); Leah B. (m. Nelson Snyder); Gideon B.; Lydian B. (m. Simon Moyer); Clara B. (m. Allan Eby); Allan B.  
**Religion:** Mennonite  
**Landholdings:** WTOxbow  
**Acres:** 275  
**Locality:** Bloomingdale  
**Organizations:** Waterloo County Agricultural Society  
Conestogo Flour Mill  
Waterloo Tp, SS 11, Bridgeport  
Doon Flax Mill  
Conestogo Flax Mill  
Woolwich Tp, SS 1, Conestogo  
Waterloo Mutual Fire Insurance Co.  
**Notes:** Following his first marriage in 1836, he moved to his father's old homestead (250 acres) on the east bank of the Grand River near Bloomingdale. In 1848 Snider and Charles Hendry opened a store in Conestogo and later operated a flax mill there. Snider also invested in the linen mill at Doon. He bought the Conestogo Mills in 1864, invested in lumber rights along the Canagagigue Creek in 1854, and bought a saw mill and a flour mill on the Conestogo River from David Musselman

on 1 December 1856 (WHS1918 6:31).

\* He took an active part in municipal government and was instrumental in the formation of the Waterloo County Agricultural Society, and was chosen as one of its first directors. He was among the founders of the Waterloo Mutual Fire Insurance Company. Snider was a school commissioner in 1843, signing the deed for the land for Bridgeport School, SS 11, of that year. In 1850 he presented a petition to Waterloo Township council "from the school trustees and others praying to be taxed at a sum not exceeding 50 pounds for the support of the school." It is noted in the Bloomingdale Tweedsmuir (Schweitzers p112) that "he was one of the Commissioners that purchased the lot on which the school was built in 1842" and it seems as though this refers to Conestogo School. In 1848 he signed a petition for the establishment of a township hall at Berlin. In 1868 he petitioned to have the Township Hall erected in Bridgeport.

\* He bought land in Crooks' Tract (Woolwich Township) sometime after 1821 (WHS1933 21:13 p13). He bought land in the Floradale district in 1852 from Samuel Eby, and when he signed a petition for the Waterloo Saugeen Railway in 1856, he was noted as being from Woolwich Township. He served on Woolwich Township Council "for some years". He had nine children by his first wife, and seven by his second. 37 acres of land in Pilkington Township where he operated a saw mill.  
**Sources:** Eby #6302; WHS1918 6:31; WHS1933 21:13; KPL vf kwcb; Schweitzers pp111-118; Hall of Fame photo

**BOWMAN, WENDELL,**

**Township Council:** Deputy Reeve 1859, 1860; Reeve 1861

**Years:** 3 **R-years:** 1

**Born:** 1806, Jan 24 **Died:** 1876, July 7

**Family:** 6th son of Rev. Joseph and Mary Baer; brother of Samuel B. qv

**Address:** Blair-farm where Norman Sipes later owned one of the oldest houses in 1954 (WHS); North Dumfries

**Occupation:** Farmer; Postmaster; Gentleman

**Origin:** Berks Co, PA

**Spouse:** Susanna

**Children:** Judith (m. Jacob Erb); Lena (m. Edward Marks); Polly (m. John Unger); Lydia (m. Christian Clemens); Susannah (m. Finlayson Cornell); Ephraim ; Sally (m. Wm Motherall); Elijah; Elizabeth (m. John Seips); Nancy (m. Joseph Stauffer, m. Nelson Seips)

**Religion:** UBrethren

**Landholdings:** BOS3/4

**Acres:** 42

**Locality:** Blair

**Organizations:** Waterloo County Agricultural Society

**Notes:** Pathmaster for Dumfries Township 1829; 1 of 3 Commissioners for Dumfries Township in 1836; Deputy Reeve for Dumfries in 1850; Warden of Waterloo County 1861; a director of the first Waterloo County Agricultural Society. He was postmaster for the Blair, Durhamville, New Carlisle and Covered Bridge area between 1858 and 1863; and he was part of the Waterloo Township Road and Bridge Committee in 1861 with Samuel D. Martin.

\* Died of sunstroke (obit Dumfries Reformer, 12/7/76)

**Sources:** 1871 census; Eby #257; obit Dumfries Reformer 12/7/76

**SNIDER, JACOB S.,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1870

**Years:** 1

**Born:** 1819, Jan. 25 **Died:** 1907, April 6

**Family:** son of Christian J. Schneider, eldest son of Yoch, and Magdalena Shantz

**Address:** NE of Bloomingdale, south part of GCT67, 219 acres, on the north side of Township Rd 40 and the west side of Township Rd 11

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Spouse:** Magdalena Schneider (Jacob's first cousin)

**Children:** Wendel; Mary; Magdalena; William; Franklin; Lucinda; Rebecca; Abraham; Isabella; Titus; Hannah; Peter Alba

**Religion:** Mennonite

**Politics:** Liberal

**Landholdings:** GCT67S

**Acres:** 218

**Locality:** Bloomingdale

**Organizations:** Bloomingdale Mennonite Church

**Notes:** "Mr Snider has always taken an active part in all municipal matters pertaining to the township...he was a good farmer but now lives retired" (Eby). He had a fine herd of Shorthorn cattle and cleared the land where he lived all his married life. "He was an honest and obliging neighbor always willing to help the needy and give of his substance to those who were poor and destitute" (Schweitzers)

**Sources:** 1851 census; Eby #6117; Schweitzers p171



**SNIDER, JOSIAH,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883; First Deputy Reeve 1884, 1885; Reeve 1886

**Years:** 7 **R-years:** 1

**Born:** 1851, Dec 3 **Died:** 1922, Nov 9

**Family:** Son of Henry and Elizabeth Snider and grandson of "Yoch"

**Address:** WT6/7, Bloomingdale, 270 acres (old Jacob Schneider homestead); Conestogo

**Occupation:** Farmer/drover

**Spouse:** Angeline Martin; she died four months after they were married; she was 18; Jemima J.T. Wright

**Religion:** Mennonite

**Landholdings:** WT6/7

**Acres:** 267

**Locality:** Bloomingdale

**Notes:** Besides farming, he also bought and sold fat cattle which he generally shipped to the English market. He fell victim to the agricultural recession from 1870-1895, and his farm was auctioned off in 1895. "Mr Josiah Snider was a victim of circumstances and was not given the opportunity of buying back this farm at the low figure at which it was sold to an absolute stranger"

(Schweitzers). The Sniders then moved to Conestogo where Josiah was a drover until bad health forced him to retire. The couple had no children. The obituary in the Berlin Daily Telegraph called him the "highly respected resident of the village of Conestoga, and one of the County's most widely known drovers."

**Sources:** Eby #6334; Schweitzers p117 with photo; obit Berlin Daily Telegraph 10/11/1922 p2

**SNIDER, KENARD,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963

**Years:** 9

**Born:** 1894, Sept 26 **Died:** 1977, Oct 26

**Family:** son of Nathaniel (son of Isaac B. Snider) and Malinda Wismer (dau of Moses), 2nd in family of 8 children

**Address:** Hidden Valley Road

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Spouse:** Hilda May Moyer (d.29.2.1963)

**Children:** Harold Sherwood; Norman Ronald

**Religion:** Mennonite

**Politics:** Conservative

**Landholdings:** BOS12/BET; 200

**Acres:** 119

**Locality:** German Mills/Parkway

**Organizations:** Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church, Kitchener

Waterloo Tp, SS 5B, Parkway

**Notes:** Buried in Hagey Mennonite Cemetery. He had wanted to be buried in open countryside, at Kinzie-Bean but area got too developed, according to recollections of Orme Gimbel.

\* Sister Arabelle Wideman (youngest in family) liked Kenard because he took care of her. She describes her brother as "outspoken" and says his interest in politics may have derived from his maternal grandfather, Moses Wismer. Arabelle describes her family as "the poor Sniders" (though they had 200 acres)

\* Son Norman Snider was Works Supt for Kitchener (but he died 1993)

**Sources:** Joe Zinger refs in KPL OHT; recollections of Orme Gimbel and Kenard's youngest sister Arabelle Wideman

**SNIDER, TILMAN B.,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1879; Second Deputy Reeve 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883; Reeve 1884, 1885

**Years:** 7 **R-years:** 2

**Born:** 1850, Dec 9

**Family:** son of Elias and Hannah Bingeman

**Address:** German Mills, Bechtel Tract (owned 160 acres with brother A.B.)

**Occupation:** Farmer/miller/breeder

**Spouse:** Magdalena Groff

**Children:** Artista; Minerva; Ella Edna; Alta Burten; Mabel Stella; Elmer Nile

**Religion:** None

**Landholdings:** BET

**Acres:** 230

**Locality:** German Mills

**Organizations:** T. and A.B. Snider

German Mills Steam Flour Mills

German Mills Post Office

Doon Flour Mills

**Notes:** He entered the milling business when in his teens, and he and his brother Amos were joint owners of the German Mills for many years. The two brothers also bought the Doon flour mills in 1884 and operated it for several years. Manager (1871 census). T.B. was the postmaster for German Mills from 1878-1890. In 1890 he moved to Sanborn, Iowa to become a farmer and stock raiser.

**Sources:** 1871 census; Eby #5876; perhaps something in History of Isaac B. Snider family?

**SNIDER, WILLIAM,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1887

**Years:** 1

**Born:** 1849, August 22 **Died:** 1937, Nov 21

**Family:** second son of Jacob S. Snider,  
brother of Peter A. and Titus

**Address:** GCT67, Bloomingdale

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Spouse:** Susannah Snyder

**Children:** Ira; Alton; Alva; Ivan; Ina (m.  
Arthur Hachborn); Ferman; Alda Leona (m.  
Ivan

Cressman)

**Religion:** UBrethren

**Landholdings:** GCT67; GCT71

**Acres:** 110

**Locality:** Bloomingdale

**Organizations:** Snyder Mennonite Church,  
Bloomingdale

**Notes:** In the Bloomingdale Tweedsmuir the  
name is spelled Snider, (Schweitzers p180)  
and definitely associated with GCT67. No  
mention is made of his brief township  
service. Directories and Voters' list of 1888  
spell Snyder for Lot 67.

\* 1884 - married

\* 1887 - became legal owner of part GCT67

\* retired from active farm work but continued  
to live on the farm with son-in-law, Arthur  
Hachborn

**Sources:** Eby #6121; Schweitzers p180-181  
with photo; obit KWR 22/11/1937p13

**SNYDER, BENJAMIN S.,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1879

**Years:** 1

**Born:** 1840, Nov 13 **Died:** 1908, Dec 29

**Family:** Son of Benjamin and Catharine  
Saltzberger, brother of Daniel S.

**Address:** Bloomingdale, GCT68

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Spouse:** Sarah Shoemaker

**Children:** Joanna; Wellington; Eliza Jane;  
Mary Ann; Sarah; Elmina; George Walter;  
Leander; Abraham Urban; Benjamin Alexander;  
Samuel Addison

**Religion:** Mennonite

**Landholdings:** GCT68, west half of his  
father's farm which was north of  
Bloomingdale; his father (or grandfather?)  
said to have acquired almost 2,000 acres of  
land by the time he died - 510 in 1861 in  
Waterloo Tp, perhaps some also in Woolwich  
Tp?

**Acres:** 165

**Locality:** Bloomingdale

**Notes:** Known as "Hivel Ben" because in 1872  
his 2-storey, 10-room brick house was built  
on a hill. His granddaughter, Mrs Horace  
Mann, remembers him of being of medium  
height, sandy complexion and wearing a beard  
(Schweitzers p190). His brother Peter, who  
suffered from epileptic fits from the age of  
12, lived with Benjamin's family. The fits  
were described as impairing "his mental  
faculties to such an extent that he needed  
constant supervision, as he often became very  
violent" (Schweitzers p186)

\* According to Bloomingdale old-timers, one  
dark winter a team of horses was stolen from  
Benjamin's barn and used in a heist at the  
Bloomingdale General Store. The thieves were  
later captured and Snyder's team was  
recovered (Schweitzers p190)

\* Described as a "prosperous farmer" in the  
short obit of the Waterloo Chronicle.

\* There were 4 Benjamin Snyders in  
Bloomingdale, 2 of them Benjamin S. Snyders.  
The other Benjamin S. (1835-1911) was the son  
of Christian J. and Magdalena Shantz. He was  
a farmer of the Oxbow Farm and a school  
trustee. He was known as "River Ben" and he  
was deaf.

**Sources:** Eby #6261; Schweitzers pp188-190



**SNYDER, DANIEL,**

**Township Council:** One of two assessors in 1822-Samuel Erb was the other; Waterloo Township Councillor in 1853 ward 3, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857. Reeve of Waterloo Village 1862

**Years:** 5

**Born:** 1797, Dec 21 **Died:** 1884, March 14

**Family:** son of Christian and Elizabeth Erb

**Address:** Waterloo after 1833

**Occupation:** Merchant

**Origin:** PA, Franklin Co

**Migration date:** 1806

**Spouse:** Nancy Erb

**Religion:** Mennonite?

**Landholdings:** GCT51 in 1831

**Locality:** Waterloo

**Notes:** Daniel E. Schneider (Eby #5988)

1797-1884 who lived 2 miles south of Berlin on a farm, then was a merchant in Waterloo. Opened a retail store in Waterloo at an early date. Uttley says a Daniel Snyder was the first Waterloo postmaster.

\* Service on Township council to 1857 is consistent as Waterloo village incorporated in that year

**Sources:** Eby #5988; photo in WHS1928 16:30 p30

**SNYDER, JOSEPH S.,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907; Deputy Reeve in 1918 and 1919

**Years:** 8

**Born:** 1851, March 25 **Died:** 1931, Feb. 19

**Family:** son of Jonas B. and Rebecca

Stauffer, grandson of John and great-grandson of "Yoch" (Eby #6283)

**Address:** WT9, old Jonathan Bowman Farm, a little north of Bloomingdale

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Spouse:** Lucinda Snyder

**Children:** Ervine Alba; Herbert N.; Lillian Arabella; Alfred Ira; Elmina L. (Eby); Alda Elmina (Schweitzer); Irene Jemima; Lucy Lauretta; Ion Joseph; Elma Vinetta; Elenor Elidia (Eby); Eleanor Allegra (Schweitzer)

**Religion:** Mennonite

**Landholdings:** WT9

**Acres:** 200

**Locality:** Bloomingdale

**Organizations:** Bloomingdale Mennonite Church Waterloo Tp, SS 12, Bloomingdale

**Notes:** The Schweitzers spell the name with a Y, and it is definitely the township councillor they are referring to. A Joseph S. Snyder was appointed with Daniel Snyder on June 6, 1881 to inspect the West Montrose covered bridge (WHS1977 65:29). He served as trustee for Bloomingdale school. The farm was run in the old-fashioned way: hydro and telephone lines were not brought in until 1939. Rumour has it that a confidence trickster, a Mr Pritschau, cheated Joseph out of \$40,000 before the First World War (Schweitzers).

**Sources:** 100 years of progress; Eby #6283; WHS1977 65:29; there is no "Joseph Snider" in WRP database, though there is a "Joseph S. Snyder" - Schweitzers. In his obituary, it is a "y". Photo p27 in 100 years.

**SNYDER, MENNO S.,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1918, 1919, 1920; Deputy Reeve 1921, 1922; First Deputy Reeve 1923

**Years:** 6

**Born:** 1860, Oct. 4 **Died:** 1928, Sept. 5

**Family:** Son of Mary (Polly) Snyder

**Address:** Bloomingdale

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Spouse:** unmarried

**Children:** none

**Religion:** Mennonite

**Landholdings:** WT11

**Acres:** 131

**Locality:** Bloomingdale

**Organizations:** Conestogo Mill

**Notes:** Son of Mary (Polly), described by Schweitzers as unmarried, keeping house for her father and brothers. I suppose everyone knew who the father was, but it not revealed in written records. His parentage did not seem to inhibit Menno S., who was "highly esteemed by all parties in the community" (Schweitzers p157) It is also stated that "Polly Snyder was a character, saying exactly what she thought to anyone, at any time, at any place". There were two Menno S. Sniders (Snyder), but Schweitzer covers both well and makes it very clear that the councillor Snider was a bachelor, son of Mary (Polly), and a farmer.

\* He tried and failed to qualify as a teacher but was a successful farmer. He was auditor for the township from 1908 to 1917, and served as a trustee of SS 12, Bloomingdale. As a young man he played on the Bloomingdale Football Team and was a member of the debating society. There is a story of him driving a new car to Berlin and shouting "whoa" when the car got out of control.

**Sources:** Eby #6298; Schweitzers p157

**STAUFFER, JOSIAH S.,**  
**Township Council:** Councillor 1905, 1906,  
 1907; Deputy Reeve 1908, 1909; Reeve 1910,  
 1911  
**Years:** 7 **R-years:** 2  
**Born:** 1864, Sept 18 **Died:** 1925, Feb 25  
**Family:** son of Levi and Esther Snider  
**Address:** GCT33, 214 acres/farm 2 miles west  
 of Waterloo on the Hallman road; "old Beatty  
 place" (Eby)  
**Occupation:** Farmer; Manager, North Waterloo  
 Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Co.  
 (re-elected in 1914 and 1915)  
**Spouse:** Isobel Wilson  
**Children:** Harley; Clarence; Mary; Violet  
**Religion:** UBrethren; Methodist  
**Politics:** Liberal  
**Landholdings:** GCT33  
**Acres:** 180  
**Locality:** Rummelhardt  
**Organizations:** North Waterloo Farmers'  
 Mutual Fire Insurance Co.  
 North Waterloo Liberal Conservative  
 Association  
 Waterloo Tp Board of Health  
 Waterloo Methodist Church  
**Notes:** Successfully farmed 22 years  
 \* 1909 - succeeded father as manager of North  
 Waterloo Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Co.  
 "During his occupancy of the office the growth  
 of the company has been most encouraging and  
 today it occupies a place of leadership among  
 the Farm Mutuals of the Dominion" (obit WC)  
 \* 1923 - retired and moved into Waterloo  
 \* had a strong personality and was a "true  
 citizen" (obit WC)  
 \* Served on Waterloo Tp Board of Health for  
 some years before 1925.  
**Sources:** Eby #7398; photo in 100 years p27

**STAUFFER, LEVI,**  
**Township Council:** Second Deputy Reeve 1873;  
 First Deputy Reeve 1874; Treasurer 1891  
**Years:** 2  
**Born:** 1839, Sept 19 **Died:** 1909, Oct 16  
**Family:** only son of Joseph and Rebecca  
 Rosenberger  
**Address:** GCT33, 214 acres/farm 2 miles west  
 of Waterloo on the Hallman road; Waterloo at  
 Herbert/George Streets  
**Occupation:** Farmer/Insurance  
**Spouse:** Esther Snider  
**Children:** Matilda Joanna (m. Alexander  
 Wilson); Lydia Ann (m. Ezra S. Shantz),  
 Haysville ; Josiah; Clementina (m. Ephraim  
 Groh), Iowa; Alfarata (m. James Mitchell) nr  
 Waterloo; Annetta Rebecca (m. Charles Moore),  
 Unionville, Michigan; Mary Jane (m. Hallman);  
 Alfienenia; Jessie Ann Judith (m. Hallman),  
 Ellington, Michigan ; Lorne Levi, New Dundee  
**Religion:** UBrethren  
**Politics:** Liberal (North Waterloo Reform  
 Association)  
**Landholdings:** GCT33  
**Acres:** 211  
**Locality:** Rummelhardt  
**Organizations:** North Waterloo Farmers'  
 Mutual Fire Insurance Co.  
 United Brethren Church, Berlin  
 Waterloo Methodist Church  
 North Waterloo Reform Association  
**Notes:** Second farm, the old Beatty or  
 Heckendon farm, by his son Josiah  
 \* Stauffer was one of the founders of the  
 North Waterloo Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance  
 Company in 1874, and its first manager in  
 1876, an office he held until his death. He  
 was a prominent member of the United  
 Brethren Church (but later Methodist?). His  
 granddaughter recalled that Stauffer was  
 stern but had a good sense of humour, and was  
 a great believer in education. He gave a  
 humorous talk at the 1909 Schneider reunion.

\* Served on Waterloo Town Council 1905 to  
 1907; member of Waterloo Board of Trade  
 \* "A good platform speaker...he was of a  
 bright and jovial disposition with a  
 well-known relish for a good story of which  
 he had an unlimited supply, and kept himself  
 well-informed on the questions of the day by  
 constant reading."  
**Sources:** Historical atlas; 100 years of  
 progress; Eby #7395; KPL vf kwcb; obits in  
 Berlin News Record 16/10/1909;  
 Chronicle-Telegraph 21/10/1909. Photo 100  
 years p45; of house at Herbert/George 100  
 years p39



**STECKLE, JOHN,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938

**Years:** 5

**Born:** 1889, Nov 8 **Died:** 1981

**Family:** son of Henry and Lydia Shantz

**Address:** 811 Bleams Road, RR#2, Kitchener

**Occupation:** Farmer/Breeder

**Spouse:** Susannah Chase (the first woman in Canada to get an agricultural degree--in Horticultural Science from OAC)

**Children:** Jean; Robert

**Religion:** Mennonite

**Landholdings:** BET

**Acres:** 176

**Locality:** Williamsburg

**Organizations:** Waterloo Holstein Breeders Association

Waterloo Cattle Breeders Association

Children's Aid Society of Waterloo County

Weber Mennonite Church, Strasburg

Doon Pioneer Village

Waterloo County Sugar Beet Growers Association.

Grand River Conservation Authority

Waterloo County Trustees and Ratepayers Association

Crop Improvement Association of Waterloo County

Twin City Milk Producers Association

Twin City Transport Co-operative

Huron District Woodlot Association

New Dundee Co-operative Creamery Ltd

Waterloo County Co-operative

Waterloo County Federation of Agriculture

Ontario Agricultural College

Waterloo Township District High School Board

Waterloo Township Area 3 School Board

Waterloo Tp, SS 7, Williamsburg

**Notes:** In 1919 he helped organized the Waterloo County Sugar Beet Growers Association and was its first secretary. He graduated from the Ontario Agricultural

College in Animal Husbandry in 1920, and was the first president of the Waterloo Holstein Association. He helped to found the Waterloo Cattle Breeders Association, and was a director of the Canadian Holstein Friesian Association. He raised purebred Suffolk sheep, Holstein cattle, Yorkshire pigs and Morgan horses. Both he and his father were cheesemakers. Steckle was an owner of a century farm, the first owner being George Bechtel, an ancestor through his paternal grandmother (WHS1967 55:57).

\* He was a member of the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame, and was inducted into the Waterloo County Hall of Fame in 1983.

\* "He believed strongly in the controversial amalgamation of one-room, eight-grade schools into larger school districts."

\* A talk by J. Steckle to members of the Waterloo Historical Society in 1965 was taped, transcribed, edited, and published (WHS1965 53:47-52), "John Steckle recollects."

\* He donated a three hectare sugar maple bush to the City of Kitchener in 1967, and in 1977 he donated, and with Paul Tuerr helped finance, the moving of the Sam Bricker barn from his farm to Doon Pioneer Village.

\* "Much of the homestead he farmed has been developed as Glen Forest subdivision." He had 175 acres, 140 arable and 35 of bush. During the 1920s, some of the first pheasants in Canada were raised on the farm from eggs. In 1929-30 seven acres of apple trees were planted.

\* Farmstead being preserved as J. Steckle Heritage Homestead, with Dr Jean Steckle as president, to provide "agricultural, educational and recreational programmes and opportunities responsive to the children and youth in the Region of Waterloo based on the use of the farmland and the heritage

resources" (KPL vf).

**Sources:** KPL vf stecklef; WHS1965 53:47-52; WHS1967 55:57; full-page photo in Burkholder p481

**TILT, WILLIAM W.,**  
**Township Council:** Councillor 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931; Deputy Reeve 1932  
**Years:** 6  
**Born:** 1888 **Died:** 1932, Feb 6  
**Family:** son of George A. Tilt and Pauline Walder  
**Address:** Blair  
**Occupation:** Drover with lumber business; later insurance  
**Spouse:** Louisa Good  
**Children:** William  
**Religion:** Prot  
**Politics:** Liberal "active in party organizations"  
**Landholdings:** Blair  
**Acres:** 21  
**Locality:** Blair  
**Organizations:** Galt Business College  
 Waterloo Township Council  
 Blair Hornets Hockey Club  
 Preston Springs Driving Club  
 Waterloo Tp, SS 1, Blair  
 Doon-Blair Board of Trade  
**Notes:** Born in Blair; educated at Blair school, Galt Business College and Guelph short course. His father was clerk of Waterloo Township for 35 years, and his grandfather for 20 years. In 1932, "polled the largest vote ever accorded a deputy-reeve of the township in the past 20 years". Prominent mason and shiner; managed the Blair Hornets hockey club; secretary of Preston Springs Driving Club "during the time of its existence". One of his outstanding characteristics was his "outspoken manner" (obit). Died of heart attack. Widow Louisa continued insurance business, having most of the township's business.  
 \* Director of Doon-Blair Board of Trade, and leader in 1932 organization; "with his co-operation it was believed that much good could have been derived by the twin villages

owing to his presence on the county council" (obit)  
**Sources:** photo with obit in Galt Reporter 6/2/1932 (also 8/2/1932 and 10/2/1932)

**VEITCH, ROBERT J.,**  
**Township Council:** Councillor 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1920, 1921, 1922; Second Deputy Reeve 1923; First Deputy Reeve 1924; Reeve 1926  
**Years:** 10 **R-years:** 1  
**Born:** 1865, March 11 **Died:** 1943, Aug 2  
**Family:** son of James Veitch and Mary Ann Hastie  
**Address:** Roseville  
**Occupation:** Farmer  
**Spouse:** Margaret McAlister; Margaret Milroy  
**Children:** Maye; Jennie; Melville; Clare; Dorothy  
**Religion:** Presbyterian  
**Landholdings:** BNS6/7  
**Acres:** 149  
**Locality:** English Settlement  
**Organizations:** Knox's Presbyterian Church, Galt  
 South Waterloo Agricultural Society  
 North Dumfries Plowmen's Association  
**Notes:** Born near Roseville on farm later owned by Floyd Becker, the last of a pioneer family of 13 children  
 \* After leaving school, lived in Galt for a few years; then in c1938 went to live with brother-in-law, John Milroy, on Cedar Creek Road; farmed in BNS6/7 on townline; "successful farmer" (obit)  
 \* Mr Veitch was warden of the County in 1926, an honorary director of the South Waterloo Agricultural Society, a director of the North Dumfries Plowmen's association, and one of the oldest members of Knox's Presbyterian session.  
**Sources:** clipping from the Cedar Creek Cemetery register (KPL); obit Ayr News 5/8/1943 p3; photo in Cowan



**VOISIN, EDWARD,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1968, 1969;

Deputy Reeve 1970, 1971, 1972

**Years:** 5

**Born:** 1938, Jan 2

**Address:** Breslau

**Occupation:** General storekeeper

**Origin:** Formosa-Teeswater farm

**Migration date:** 1958 to Kitchener

**Spouse:** Betty

**Children:** Kim; Douglas

**Religion:** RCatholic

**Locality:** Breslau

**Organizations:** Breslau Recreation Club

Knights of Columbus

**Notes:** Worked first in Kitchener at Weston's Bakery, then bought Breslau general store (previously Schiedel's) in 1964 (it burned down about 1973). Customers urged him to run for council, and in 1969 contested deputy reeveship and defeated Arthur Kennedy.

\* From about 1972, was sales rep for oil company.

\* Recalls frustration of, as councillor, rubber-stamping decisions really made by others. Remembers most important achievement for his community being a solution to the problem of surface water in Breslau ditches. Voisin was Roads Committee chair and with George Bone worked out an efficient low-cost solution.

\* Served as chair of fire, police and roads committees and was acting reeve virtually a whole year while Ted Isley was ill.

**Sources:** Newspaper

**WEBER, LORNE B.,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935; Deputy Reeve 1936, 1937; Reeve 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943

**Years:** 12 **R-years:** 6

**Born:** 1900 **Died:** 1986, Dec 2

**Family:** son of Noah S. and Catherine Brubacher

**Address:** 527 King Street North, Waterloo

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Spouse:** Sylvia Brown

**Children:** none

**Religion:** Evangelical

**Landholdings:** GCT8

**Acres:** 111

**Locality:** Martin's

**Organizations:** Emmanuel United Church, Waterloo

Pennsylvania German Folklore Society  
**Notes:** Father was Noah S. Weber (1868-1963) a member of Erb St Mennonite Church who farmed 2/3 miles north of Waterloo, a progressive farmer. New farm buildings said by Eby (#7875) to be nearly opposite old Conrad Schmitt hotel, on north part of "old Weber" farm

\* Re-elected reeve for 1944, but resigned February to become township assessor/collector under new system.

\* Member of Emmanuel United Church and life member of the Pennsylvania German Folklore Society. In 1952, with Amzie Martin in a conestoga wagon re-enacted the journey of Mennonites from Pennsylvania to mark the Waterloo County Centennial. He wrote about the trip for the 1952 WHS. He died of a heart attack.

**Sources:** EBY #7875; WPL vf; KPL vf watco cb; there are some interesting photographs of Weber at Waterloo Public Library, one where he is wearing an Indian headdress, another where he is in his overalls, and the conestoga wagon is in the background

**WEBER, NOAH,**

**Township Council:** Second Deputy Reeve 1895, 1896; First Deputy Reeve 1897, 1898; Reeve 1899

**Years:** 5 **R-years:** 1

**Born:** 1835, Sept 24 **Died:** 1925, Jan 26

**Family:** Son of David B. and Mary Lyons

**Address:** BT7, Strasburg

**Occupation:** Farmer/miller

**Spouse:** Elizabeth Kolb

**Children:** Manasseh; Hannah (m. Samuel Brado); Amanda (m. Frederick Krampien); Menno; Magdalena (m. George Ament); Mariah (m. Edward Doepel); Ephraim; Lucinda; Bertha

**Religion:** NMennonite

**Landholdings:** BT7

**Acres:** 267

**Locality:** Strasburg

**Notes:** His wife died in 1885. Operated sawmill at which E.W.B. Snider reports him as cutting a pine log about twenty feet long and about 4 and a half feet in diameter.

**Sources:** Eby #7787

**WILLS, JOHN R.,**  
**Township Council:** Councillor 1962, 1963  
 (resigned Feb 1963)  
**Years:** 2  
**Born:** 1915 **Died:** 1981, July 15  
**Family:** son of Thomas Wills and Mary Gainey  
**Address:** Lexington; 902-65 Westmount Road,  
 Waterloo  
**Occupation:** Insurance company branch manager  
**Origin:** England  
**Spouse:** Doris Spencer  
**Children:** Bruce; Clive; John; Valerie (m.  
 Barney Vogen); Pamela; Chris (m. Arthur  
 Ziegler)  
**Locality:** Lexington  
**Organizations:** Royal Canadian Legion,  
 Kitchener Branch #50  
**Notes:** John Wills was employed with London  
 Life Insurance Company in Kitchener and  
 Brantford, and later became supervisor of the  
 Canada Manpower office in Kitchener.  
 \* Believe he resigned in 1963? According to  
 a newspaper article dated May 15, 1962,  
 "Controversy over Waterloo Township Schools:  
 red hot school battle resumes tonight's  
 meet", Councillor Wills had been absent for a  
 council meeting held May 7th: "He had  
 suffered a heart attack and was in  
 hospital...in a later interview from a  
 hospital bed Councillor Wills criticized  
 Reeve Burton for not voting against the  
 motion which would have caused the resolution  
 [to vote against rehearing the case for  
 reopening Kossuth and Vance schools] to be  
 lost." It was John Wills and James Johannes  
 vs Clayton Rickert and Kenard Snider.  
**Sources:** Newspapers; obit KWR 17/7/1981p23

**WILLSON, EPHRAIM WILLIAM,**  
**Township Council:** Councillor 1916, 1917  
**Years:** 2  
**Born:** 1862, Aug 26 **Died:** 1950, Sept 11  
**Family:** son of Isaac and Mary McCloy  
**Address:** Hemlock Grove Farm, GCT37, 3 miles  
 west of Kitchener and south of Highways 7 and  
 8  
**Occupation:** Farmer  
**Spouse:** Mary Anthes  
**Children:** Leslie; Ford; William Clare; Norma  
 (m. Harry Hattin); Marthabelle (m. W.A. Cook)  
**Religion:** Methodist; United  
**Landholdings:** GCT37-E  
**Acres:** 224  
**Locality:** Elmdale  
**Organizations:** Waterloo Tp, SS 8, Elmdale  
 Trinity Methodist Church, Berlin  
 Trinity United Church, Kitchener  
**Notes:** Took over his father's farm in 1883  
 when he was 21, after the death of his  
 father. Reunited N and S sections from 1890  
 \* Secretary-treasurer of Elmdale School for  
 30 years (WHS1958 46:51), and a trustee for  
 40 years. He was known as a lover of good  
 horses and a breeder of Shorthorn cattle and  
 Leicester sheep. His farm was described as a  
 family gathering place, with seldom a weekend  
 passing without some relative being on hand.  
 E.W. was an active member of Trinity  
 Methodist Church. Known as "Will Willson."  
 \* 1947 - sold farm and moved to Kitchener  
 where he lived with his widowed daughter,  
 Norma  
**Sources:** WHS1958 46:51

**WISMER, MOSES E.,**  
**Township Council:** Councillor 1874  
**Years:** 1  
**Born:** 1846, April 9 **Died:** 1921, Dec 31  
**Family:** Son of Daniel Wismer  
**Address:** German Mills, Bechtel Tract,  
 north-eastern portion; Doon; Preston  
**Occupation:** Farmer; Gristmill owner  
**Spouse:** Magdalena Snider  
**Children:** Orphan Henry; Addison Milo;  
 Malinda Jane; Nelson Alby; Norman Granson;  
 Moses Alexander; Ermina Isabella; Alice  
 Salome; Herbert Daniel  
**Religion:** Mennonite  
**Politics:** Liberal  
**Landholdings:** GCT54?/BET  
**Acres:** 163  
**Locality:** Centreville  
**Organizations:** Doon Mills  
 Preston Town Council  
**Notes:** Farmed 163 acres (Historical atlas  
 p32) Berlin, Bechtel Tract; after marriage  
 moved to the old Wismer farm 3 miles SE  
 Berlin where he lived for 19 years; then  
 moved to Doon; and then moved to a farm near  
 Preston towards Blair on Fountain Street  
 \* Wismer owned the Doon gristmill begun by  
 Adam Ferrie until the late 1880s as a partner  
 of T. and A.B. Snider. He was also a school  
 trustee and a member of Preston Town Council  
 for many years. He died while feeding cattle  
 at his Blair farm. The Waterloo Chronicle  
 called him "one of Preston's most outstanding  
 men in public life" and "one of the best  
 posted men in politics in this part of the  
 country." The Galt Reporter noted that his  
 "funeral was very largely attended, which  
 went to show the high esteem in which the  
 deceased was held." Buried in East End  
 Mennonite Church.  
**Sources:** Historical atlas; 1871 census; Eby  
 #8168; obit in WC under the Preston section;  
 notice in Galt Reporter 6/1/1922



**WOOD, JAMES R.,**  
**Township Council:** Councillor 1916, 1917,  
 1932, 1933; Deputy Reeve 1934, 1935  
**Years:** 6  
**Born:** 1876, Oct 29 **Died:** 1935, Oct 6  
**Family:** son of John S. Wood of Winterbourne  
**Address:** Breslau road, near Preston  
**Occupation:** Farmer  
**Spouse:** Elizabeth Henderson  
**Children:** Robert; Elizabeth; Janet; Helen;  
 Margaret  
**Religion:** Presbyterian  
**Politics:** Liberal  
**Landholdings:** BBF23-26  
**Acres:** 178  
**Locality:** Maple Grove  
**Organizations:** Maple Grove Farmers' Club  
 Knox Presbyterian Church, Preston  
 South Waterloo Liberal Association  
**Notes:** Assisted in the formation of the  
 Preston Farmers' Institute Club in 1908,  
 later changed to the Maple Grove Farmers Club  
 in 1911. He was known for his political  
 banter with Oscar Dessler during the lunch  
 hour of that organization (WHS1986 74:143). A  
 member of the County Agricultural Advisory  
 Board and was active in educational affairs.  
 He died in office following an operation.  
**Sources:** WHS1986 74:143; photo with obit  
 Waterloo Chronicle 10/10/1935 front page

**WOOLNER, ISAAC H.,**  
**Township Council:** Councillor 1872, 1874;  
 First Deputy Reeve 1873, 1877, 1878; Second  
 Deputy Reeve 1875, 1876  
**Years:** 7  
**Born:** 1824, Nov **Died:** 1896, Aug 27  
**Family:** Son of Isaac and Sarah Hembling  
**Address:** GCT46/few miles west of Berlin  
**Occupation:** Farmer  
**Origin:** England  
**Spouse:** Lydia Watson  
**Children:** Isaac, and not sure who else--  
**Religion:** Mennonite  
**Landholdings:** GCT46; also GCT103/110 (1886  
 voters' list)  
**Acres:** 179  
**Locality:** Nine Pines  
**Notes:** He was listed under the constables'  
 account in the council of Waterloo, dated  
 1868 (WHS1989 77:5), and so was probably  
 hired or sworn in for some particular case or  
 court proceeding.  
 \* "The funeral of the late Isaac Woolner was  
 very largely attended on Sunday, being one of  
 the largest attended in the district for  
 years" (Berlin News Record 31/8/1896). Buried  
 in Latschar Mennonite Cemetery, Mannheim.  
**Sources:** Eby #8357; KPL vf on Ward Woolner  
 mentions the Woolner family; there is  
 reference to an Isaac N. Woolner, who married  
 Margaret Willson and had four children,  
 WHS1949 37:40. No obit in Galt paper, NHI,  
 Reformer; short notes in Berlin News Record  
 28/8/1896 and 31/8/1896

**ZINGER, JOSEPH A.,**

**Township Council:** Councillor 1953, 1954, 1955; Deputy Reeve 1956, 1957

**Years:** 5

**Born:** 1918, July 19

**Family:** Son of Albert E. and Helen Steffler

**Address:** Maryhill, RR #1 Breslau

**Occupation:** Farmer; Plumbing and Building Inspector, Zoning Administrator for Township, 1960-1972

**Origin:** Alsace (great-grandparents emigrated in 1832)

**Spouse:** Marjorie J. Hicknell

**Religion:** RCatholic

**Politics:** CCF candidate for Waterloo North in 1951 provincial election; Liberal

**Landholdings:** GCT80/GCT79; 145 acre farm, 1947-1993

**Acres:** 145

**Locality:** Maryhill

**Organizations:** Knights of Columbus, Maryhill (founding Grand Knight)

Waterloo County Hospitalization Co-operative (founding president)

Breslau-Maryhill Credit Union (founding member)

North Waterloo Soft Ball Association (president, 1947-1950)

Waterloo County Horse Shoe Players Association (founding president)

Senators Club (for former members of Waterloo County Council)

St Boniface and Maryhill Community Historical Society

Century Homesteads Club

St Boniface Roman Catholic Church, Maryhill

**Notes:** After reaching Grade 10, attended OAC for three terms, and later one term at GCVI for bookkeeping and business administration. During WWII he worked at Beatty's in Fergus, building pillar-boxes for battleships and doing jobs connected with carpentry, plumbing and maintenance.

\* After the war he bought his father's farm and was a member of the local school board.

\* Asked to run as a local councillor following the 1951 election for MPP which he contested for the CCF against the incumbent MPP (Jack Brown) and the Mayor of Kitchener (Dr Stanley Leavine), the three candidates being only 200 votes apart. He spent 3 months campaigning for MPP, and 2 weeks campaigning for councillor. During 1956, the township clerk was often ill, and Zinger recorded proceedings at council meetings until a new clerk was hired. He didn't run for office in 1959 because of his father's ill-health,

\* Became township's building and plumbing inspector from 1960 to 1972. He was also the person in the Waterloo Township Centennial Committee in 1967 responsible for the parade.

\* Following regionalization, he was a member of Woolwich Council from 1977 to 1988. He began the Senators Club, which includes anyone who was ever a member of the County Council, and was founding Grand Knight of Knights of Columbus group in the Maryhill area (450 members). Editor of various historical publications: including New Germany 1867 Maryhill 1967; St Boniface Church Centennial 1877-1977; St Boniface and Maryhill Community Historical Society, 1977-1982. Church usher at St Boniface for 60 years. Owns and operates a century farm north of Maryhill.

**Sources:** WHS vf; KPL OHT



## PART C: OFFICIALS OF WATERLOO TOWNSHIP, 1850-1972 (UNELECTED)

from	to	name	born	died	religion	occupation	land	township service
1850	1861	Shoemaker, David S.	1820	1891	Presbyteri	Merchant	Bridgepor	Clerk 1850-1861; Treasurer 1854-1861 (Elias Eby treasurer in 1862)
1850	1853	Ahrens, Charles H.	1803	1854	Swedenborg	Merchant; owned	Berlin	Treasurer 1850-1853, David S. Shoemaker becoming treasurer in 1854
1862	1882	Tilt, William	1805	1883	Baptist	Conveyancer	Blair	Clerk 1862-1882 (appointed 1861)
1865	1890	Bowman, Isaac L.	1830	1893	UBrethren	Teacher,	GCT53	20 Treasurer from 1865-1890 (Levi Stauffer treasurer in 1891)
1883	1918	Tilt, George A.	1857	1927	Lutheran	Merchant	Blair	Clerk 1883-1918 (Peter A. Snider became clerk in 1918)
1892	1911	Shirk, Peter	1839	1919	Mennonite	Miller,	GCT59	30 Treasurer from 1892-1911 (in 1912 George M. Shirk became Treasurer)
1912	1927	Shirk, George M.	1870	1928	Evangelica	Miller		Treasurer from 1912-1927, succeeding his father, Peter Shirk. Allen Shirk, his son, became Treasurer in 1928.
1918	1947	Snider, Peter A. (Alba)	1866	1955	UBrethren	Farmer		Clerk 1918-1947. In 1948 he resigned and was succeeded by Leslie F. Bowman.
1928	1948	Shirk, Allen	c189	1984	N	Coal merchant	Bridgeport	Treasurer 1928-1948, including both 1928 and 1948, following the death of his father
1956	1956	Brighton, John						Clerk 1956
1956	1957	Matthews, Benjamin						Treasurer 1956, 1957
1957	1972	Cooper, Gordon	1920					Clerk 1957; Clerk/Treasurer

# PROFILES OF OFFICIALS OF WATERLOO TOWNSHIP, 1850-1972

## AHRENS, CHARLES H.,

**Township Council:** Treasurer 1850-1853

**Born:** 1803, Mar 12 **Died:** 1854, Aug 21

**Family:** son of a nobleman, but dropped the "von" because there was another Carl Ahrens in Berlin, and called himself Carl H.

(Uttley); uncle of Charles Andrew Ahrens

**Address:** Berlin

**Occupation:** Merchant; owned foundry on Foundry Street, later Ontario Street; Millwright

**Origin:** Germany, Holzstein

**Migration date:** 1835 (Uttley)

**Spouse:** Elisabeth Gaukel

**Children:** Herman F.; Caroline Catharine (wife of Dr Samuel L. Hughes); Emmanuel; John E.; Alfred E.; Nancy

**Religion:** Swedenborgian

**Landholdings:** Berlin

**Locality:** Berlin

**Organizations:** Huber and Ahrens Foundry, Berlin  
**Notes:** 1840 - with Henry S. Huber opened foundry; Uttley says that remodelled Shoemaker's mill at Bridgeport when met Huber.

\* 1851 - Huber and Ahrens opened general store on American House corner and their foundry to make stoves and threshing machines. Uttley says they cast a cannon to celebrate the opening of courthouse. 1851 census describes foundry as steam-powered and employing 11.

\* 1852 - first Treasurer of Waterloo County. Uttley says that his office was only opened on Saturday and his salary was 50 pounds a year; also that he gave up the office when much of his salary began to go towards free dinners, entertaining the men from the northern part of the county.

**Sources:** 1851 census; widow in mentioned in 1871 census; Uttley

## BOWMAN, ISAAC L.,

**Township Council:** Treasurer from 1865-1890 (Levi Stauffer treasurer in 1891)

**Born:** 1830, May 23 **Died:** 1893, February 3

**Family:** youngest son of John B. and Nancy Bechtel, nephew of Jonathan Bauman

**Address:** Berlin

**Occupation:** Teacher, Provincial Land Surveyor

**Spouse:** Elizabeth Meyer

**Children:** Leander; Arthur; Franklin; Hervey

**Religion:** UBrethren

**Landholdings:** GCT53

**Acres:** 20

**Locality:** Freeport

**Organizations:** United Brethren in Christ Freeport Academy

**Notes:** Bowman was born near Freeport, later attending Oberlin College, Ohio from 1852-56. He taught public school and in 1860 was school inspector in Waterloo Township until a change in the school law was made in 1871. Listed as surveyor in Waterloo County Directory for 1884-85 by W.W. Evans (Snyders p.231). He was a lay preacher for the United Brethren Church. In 1851 he was appointed Engineer of Wilmot Township (WHS1962 50:67). He was the first principal of Freeport Academy in 1867: photograph of him with pupils and staff (WHS 1924 12:110). In 1869 Bowman reported two Sunday Schools with 150 pupils and 13 Sunday School teachers at Bridgeport School.(WHS1979 67:55). He died of paralysis.

**Sources:** Eby #244; Snyders; Freeport Academy, 1867 photograph with pupils and staff WHS1924 12:110; WHS1962 50:67; WHS1979 67:55.

## BRIGHTON, JOHN,

**Township Council:** Clerk 1956

**Sources:** Newspaper; not in Waterloo Tp cemetery records, or at Kitchener Mt Hope or Waterloo Parkview

## COOPER, GORDON,

**Township Council:** Clerk 1957;

Clerk/Treasurer 1958-1972

**Born:** 1920?; 61 in 1981

**Address:** 31 Parkway Drive, Kitchener

**Notes:** He was clerk of Wellesley township in 1949, and following regionalization became clerk-administrator of Woolwich township. He retired in 1981 due to health problems. He suffered a heart attack in November 1978 and returned to work part-time in the spring of 1979, resuming work full-time the following year.

**Sources:** photo KPL vf cbkw

## MATTHEWS, BENJAMIN,

**Township Council:** Treasurer 1956, 1957



**SHIRK, ALLEN,**

**Township Council:** Treasurer 1928-1948, including both 1928 and 1948, following the death of his father

**Born:** c1896 (88 years old when he died)

**Died:** 1984, April 12

**Family:** Son of George M. Shirk

**Address:** 70 Earl St, Kitchener

**Occupation:** Shirk Coal and Fuel Oil Co. and two service stations

**Spouse:** Anne Braithwaite

**Children:** Don-died in 1979; Grant;

Keith-died in 1975; Mary Hudson

**Religion:** N

**Politics:** N

**Landholdings:** 100 acre farm in Bamberg

**Organizations:** Allen Shirk Ltd.

Westmount Golf and Country Club, Kitchener

Kitchener-Waterloo Rotary Club

Kitchener-Waterloo Granite Club

Kitchener-Waterloo Sales and Ad Club

Waterloo County Shrine Club

Waterloo Masonic Lodge

**Notes:** Was a bookkeeper in father's Baden feed mill and served in the First World War as a bayonet and physical training instructor

\* 1919-bought Harry Schade's shares in the coal company that Schade had been partners with George M. Shirk

\* 1927-acquired his father's shares in the coal company and started a service station at Lancaster Street and Shirk Place with two pumps, selling Robin Hood or Imperial gas.

\* At one point the Shirks operated three service stations: one in Bridgeport and two in Waterloo. For a brief period they also ran a Western Tire automotive accessories store on Weber Street, Waterloo, across from Forbes Motors Ltd.

\* Served for years as a car licence examiner.

He learned to drive himself in a 1912

Cadillac ragtop c1918.

\* Known for wearing fedoras (check out the

photos in the KPLvf); he had a stroke in 1980.

\* "The Shirks excelled in golf. They won the Canadian Father and Sons Golf Tournament five times. Shirk also won the Waterloo Tennis championship in the early 1930s" (KWR 29/1/1980)

**Sources:** Bridgeport Tweedsmuir, reel 3, which includes articles from the KWR 22/3/1957, 5/4/1980, 29/1/1980; KPLvf

**SHIRK, GEORGE M.,**

**Township Council:** Treasurer from 1912-1927, succeeding his father, Peter Shirk. Allen Shirk, his son, became Treasurer in 1928.

**Born:** 1870, April 4 **Died:** 1928, Oct 7

**Family:** son of Peter and Magdalena Martin

**Address:** Bridgeport

**Occupation:** Miller

**Spouse:** Alvina Snyder

**Children:** Allen; Era (m. Fred Capling); Elma (m. J.H. Shaw; Ada (m. J.H. Weber)

**Religion:** Evangelical

**Politics:** Liberal

**Locality:** Bridgeport

**Organizations:** Shirk and Snider Ltd, Bridgeport

Baden Mills

Zion Evangelical Church, Berlin

Waterloo County Canadian Club

Kitchener Board of Trade

Toronto Board of Trade

**Notes:** George was Managing Director of Shirk and Snider Ltd in 1910, which operated the Bridgeport mills and the Baden flour mills. George followed his father in this position and was a well known miller in western Ontario. In 1926 he sold the business and began a coal and gravel business. A year later, his son Allen took charge of the coal business which he operated along with a gas service station. George died suddenly in Bridgeport of a heart attack.

**Sources:** Eby #5665; front page obituary in Waterloo Chronicle 11/10/1928 with photo

**SHIRK, PETER,**

**Township Council:** Treasurer from 1892-1911

(in 1912 George M. Shirk became Treasurer)

**Born:** 1839, November 11 **Died:** 1919,  
October 1

**Family:** son of Christian and Elizabeth  
Hoffman

**Address:** Bridgeport, GCT59

**Occupation:** Miller, merchant

**Origin:** PA, Lancaster County

**Migration date:** 1862 (Eby) /1861 (WHS1933 21:63)

**Spouse:** Magdalena Martin; Judith Weber  
Krempien

**Children:** Anna (m. William Kraft); Peter  
(WHS1933 21:65); George; Emma; Elizabeth;  
Catharine; Martin; Magdalena; John; Maria;  
Noah; Lydia; Veronica; Barbara

**Religion:** Mennonite

**Landholdings:** GCT59

**Acres:** 30

**Locality:** Bridgeport

**Organizations:** Shirk and Snider Ltd,  
Bridgeport

Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate Board

Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate and Vocational  
Institute

Berlin High School Board

Blair Mills

Baden Mills

Lancaster Mills, Bridgeport

Union Mills, Waterloo

Waterloo Tp, SS 11, Bridgeport

Martin's Meeting House

**Notes:** Eby sees him as the quintessential  
self-made man. He arrived at his uncle Jacob  
Hoffman's place, and worked for two months in  
his sawmill. He went to Waterloo and and  
worked at the Union Mills until Dec. 1, 1866,  
when he bought the Blair Mills (Carlisle  
Mills, built by Samuel B. Bowman). In 1869 he  
sold Blair Mills and became part owner of  
Shirk & Snider, of Bridgeport with S.S.  
Snider. He was responsible for the

construction of a spur by the Grand Trunk  
Railway to the mill. In 1887 Mr Snider  
retired, leaving Mr Shirk sole owner. He also  
owned a grist mill in Baden, and was assisted  
by his son, George. In addition to the grist  
mills, he also owned a cooperage,  
supplying barrels for the mills. He was a  
Berlin High School Trustee from 1878 to 1904,  
a Trustee of Common Schools, a trustee of  
Bridgeport school in 1879. He was  
instrumental in adding Manual Training and  
Household Science added to the high school  
curriculum. He was inducted into the Waterloo  
County Hall of Fame in 1973.

**Sources:** Eby #5663; WHS1933 21:63,65; Hall  
of Fame photo

**SHOEMAKER, DAVID S.,**

**Township Council:** Clerk 1850-1861; Treasurer  
1854-1861 (Elias Eby treasurer in 1862)

**Born:** 1820, Jan 7 **Died:** 1891, Jan 6

**Family:** youngest child of John and Mary  
Shantz, brother of Jacob S.

**Address:** Bridgeport/Berlin

**Occupation:** Merchant

**Origin:** PA, Montgomery Co

**Migration date:** 1829

**Spouse:** Margaret W. Knickerbocker; Elizabeth  
Louisa Knickerbocker

**Children:** Mary; John Henry; David Cameron;  
Barnabas Garret; Adam Johnston (census) or  
Johnson A. (Eby); Mary Amelia (m. John F.  
Snoor); Margaret A. (m. John W. Wright);  
Georgiana E.; Charles P.; Emma N. (m. Jerome  
Rauck); Margaret W.; Sarah E.; Catharine M.;  
Grace W.; Alice A.

**Religion:** Presbyterian

**Landholdings:** Bridgeport

**Locality:** Berlin

**Organizations:** Berlin Grammar School Board  
of Trustees

Simpson Furniture Co., Berlin

**Notes:** David spent his younger years in  
Waterloo Township as a clerk, later carrying  
on a business in Bridgeport and then Berlin.  
He was first married in 1841. His wife died  
at Bridgeport in 1860. After his second  
marriage in May 1864, they moved to Three  
Rivers, Michigan. He had 11 children with his  
first wife, and 4 with his second. He owned a  
cut stone building on Duke Street in Berlin,  
constructed in 1860 and intended for a bank  
and an agent's residence. Shoemaker was a  
member of the first Board of Trustees for  
Berlin Grammar School in 1855 and Waterloo  
County Registrar from 1853-1863.

**Sources:** 1851 census; Eby #7025



**SNIDER, PETER A. (ALBA),**

**Township Council:** Clerk 1918-1947. In 1948 he resigned and was succeeded by Leslie F. Bowman.

**Born:** 1866, Nov 18 **Died:** 1955, May 12

**Family:** son of Jacob S. and Magdalena Schneider

**Address:** GCT67, RR #3

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Spouse:** Eliza Jane Strong

**Children:** Harold Jacob; Maurice Robert; Alba Carlisle (died in infancy)

**Religion:** UBrethren

**Politics:** Liberal

**Locality:** Bloomingdale

**Organizations:** United Brethren Church, Bloomingdale

**Notes:** Snider was educated at Bloomingdale School and later attended a business college. In 1895 he was helping his brother Titus work their father's farm several miles NE of Bloomingdale. He married in 1910. He served as assessor and later as tax collector of Waterloo Township for 14 years.

**Sources:** Eby #6129; Schweitzers p173, photo

**TILT, GEORGE A.,**

**Township Council:** Clerk 1883-1918 (Peter A. Snider became clerk in 1918)

**Born:** 1857, Dec 16 **Died:** 1927, April 21

**Address:** Blair; "on the north side of highway...presently called Lambtann Haven Rest Home" (WHS1959 47:4); the farm was formerly Christian Schneider's near Doon (WHS1971 59:35); he moved to Preston at the end of his life

**Occupation:** Merchant

**Spouse:** Pauline Walder

**Children:** William; Lloyd; Ruth; Mrs Allan Maxwell

**Religion:** Lutheran

**Politics:** Liberal

**Landholdings:** Blair

**Locality:** Blair

**Organizations:** Preston Park Board

**Notes:** Appointed Township clerk on the death of his father in 1883, he retired in 1918. A Blair school trustee. Tilt was a police magistrate, a member of Preston Parks Board, the Mothers' Allowance Board, and the IOOF and AF & AM lodges. Buried in Preston cemetery.

\* He was a dealer in all kinds of agricultural implements in Blair, cattle drover, and Justice of the Peace according to Jim Johannes (WHS1941 29:164). Agent for 35 years (until 1908) for the A.O. Wismer Co of Brantford and subsequently by the Massey-Harris Co. During this period he was also engaged in the cattle business with Menno Hallman of Roseville and John Brown of Galt.

\* Donated land that was later part of the Cressman's Bush, on the banks of the Grand River between Doon and German Mills (WHS1943 31:31); according to W.H. Breithaupt, owned the oldest building in Waterloo County, "a stately log house, at Doon, built by Christian Schneider" (WHS1931 19:285-287).

Hosted great Schneider reunion of 1909.

**Sources:** 1871 census; obituaries in Prestonian, KWR, and Waterloo Chronicle; WHS1959 47:4; WHS1943 31:31; WHS1931 19:285-287; WHS1941 29:164; WHS1971 59:35

**TILT, WILLIAM,**

**Township Council:** Clerk 1862-1882 (appointed 1861)

**Born:** 1805, June 26 **Died:** 1883, April 3

**Address:** Blair house and lot

**Occupation:** Conveyancer (Historical atlas); School teacher (Consolidated by-laws 1913); Township clerk (1871 census); Merchant (Doon/Blair Tweedsmuir, 1851 census)

**Origin:** England - Surrey - Dorking

**Migration date:** 1832

**Spouse:** Jane Cosens; Caroline Cosens

**Children:** William; Louisa; Nathaniel; Francis; Thomas; Ann; Isaac; Arthur; Ellen; Caroline; George; Elizabeth; John; at his death, only 13 of his 17 children were still living...

**Religion:** Baptist; Christadelphian

**Landholdings:** Blair

**Locality:** Blair

**Organizations:** Waterloo Tp, SS 1, Blair Waterloo Tp, SS 2, Strasburg

**Notes:** When he first came to Canada in 1832, under the auspices of the Petworth Emigration Committee, he taught the children of Mr Van Egmond and helped survey the Huron Road. His obituary from the Dumfries Reformer says "he came to Blair, where he taught for several years in a frame school that stood on the site of his late residence. Afterwards he was variously occupied till 1861 in running a tannery and in mercantile pursuits." "Like most Englishmen, had acquired an education above the ordinary and was most methodical in his work." He was a school teacher in 1835, teaching Waterloo Township School Sections 1 and 2, Blair and Strasburg (note, however, that these were not called sections until 1846 and not administered as distinct units until after 1850). Apparently he had as many as 81 pupils to teach in one particular year. It is said that he was a member of the Board of Examiners appointed to grant licenses to

teachers after the Common School Act was passed.

\* The 1851 census lists eight children, though by that time he'd married again, and the 1871 census lists the other five. The second wife was his sister-in-law. He had a farm in Doon, which was bought by his son John. He died of heart disease.

\* "He was a very methodical man, and we venture to say that a more correct, cleaner, neater, systematic set of books cannot be found in any Municipality in the Province than are his records during the twenty two years he held the position of Clerk" (1913 bylaws, written by his son): "his records are even now considered models of municipal system" (Berlin 1912 p.16)

**Sources:** Historical atlas; 1871 census; WHS1965; KPL vf watco cb; Doon/Blair Tweedsmuir; photo Confederation number p29



INDEX OF ALL COUNCILLORS AND OFFICIALS, with the first and last years of their township service, and part of their report in which to find details.

Part A: Early officials before 1850:

Part B: Elected councillors, 1850-1972;

Part C: clerks and treasurers, 1850-1972

name	dates	part
Abra, John William	1934 1939	B
Abra, Joseph	1906 1913	B
Ahrens, Charles H.	1850 1853	C
Amos, John	1900 1905	B

Betzner, Jacob S.	1870 1874	B
Bock, Jacob	1823 1826	A
Bowers, Cyrus	1861 1863	B
Bowman, Isaac L.	1865 1890	C
Bowman, Jonathan B.	1850 1850	B
Bowman, Leslie F.	1947 1947	B
Bowman, Samuel B.	1841 1841	A
Brighton, John	1956 1956	C
Brubacher, Henry S.	1871 1871	B
Burkholder, Daniel	1861 1862	B
Burkholder, Isaac E.	1872 1872	B
Burton, Leonard E.	1952 1964	B

Clemens, David	1827 1838	A
Clemens, George	1822 1822	A
Clemens, Isaac	1851 1861	B
Clemens, Joel	1869 1872	B
Cooper, Gordon	1957 1972	C
Cowan, James	1842 1849	A
Cowan, Robert	1940 1947	B
Cowan, William	1892 1893	B

Davidson, George	1850 1852	B
Devitt, Barnabas	1858 1860	B

Eagle, Arthur W.	1948 1952	B
Eby, Elias	1850 1864	B
Ellis, Carl	1936 1948	B
Erb, Abraham	1822 1823	A
Erb, Cyrus	1859 1860	B
Erb, Ephraim B.	1861 1869	B
Erb, John L.	1863 1871	B
Erb, Samuel	1822 1822	A
Eshelman, Moses	1872 1873	B

Groff, Amos M.	1912 1919	B
Groh, Christian	1924 1933	B
Groh, Isaac	1877 1891	B

Hachborn, Arthur	1938 1944	B
Hagey, Joseph B.	1894 1898	B
Hallman, Abraham C.	1908 1917	B
Hallman, Irvin C.	1921 1931	B
Halter, Edward	1875 1879	B

name	dates	part
Hassan, James	1856 1856	B
Henderson, Thomas	1856 1858	B
Henry, William	1864 1868	B
Hertel, Herman	1895 1898	B

Isley, Theodore	1952 1972	B
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James, Quentin	1964 1967	B
Jansen, August	1899 1920	B
Janzen, Henry	1945 1971	B
Johannes, James	1946 1963	B
Johannes, Lorne	1940 1942	B

Kennedy, Arthur	1959 1969	B
King, Arthur Case	1948 1951	B
Kinzie, Simon	1918 1937	B
Klein, Frank A.	1926 1931	B
Klie, Leslie C.	1943 1951	B
Knechtel, Cranson	1968 1972	B
Koehler, Louis	1891 1903	B
Kraft, Aaron	1877 1883	B
Kraft, Moses	1875 1876	B
Kribs, Lewis	1873 1876	B

Latsch, George W.	1925 1925	B
Lutz, Daniel	1829 1842	A

Martin, Samuel D.	1861 1863	B
Matthews, Benjamin	1956 1957	C
McKay, John Finlay	1888 1894	B
McNally, Henry	1862 1878	B
Mitchell, William	1886 1894	B
Moser, Charles W.	1930 1933	B
Moss, Irvin	1943 1945	B
Mounstephen, John E.	1972 1972	B
Moyer, Herbert R.	1954 1961	B

Peddar, Thomas	1853 1855	B
Phin, James P.	1884 1890	B
Prange, Roy	1970 1972	B

Quickfall, Richard	1864 1895	B
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Randall, George	1864 1869	B
Randall, John A.	1964 1965	B
Reist, Owen	1900 1907	B
Rickert, Clayton	1950 1963	B

Schaefer, Frederic	1896 1901	B
Scheifele, Alvin	1939 1939	B
Schlueter, Lorne	1952 1954	B
Schnarr, Edward	1945 1951	B

name	dates	part
Schneider, Herbert	1964 1967	B
Scott, John	1852 1853	B
Shafer, William	1880 1887	B
Shantz, Isaac E.	1872 1872	B
Shantz, Samuel	1851 1860	B
Shantz, Samuel E.	1902 1909	B
Shantz, Tilman S.	1884 1892	B
Shaw, William Cowan	1908 1915	B
Sherk, Samuel	1823 1823	A
Shirk, Allen	1928 1948	C
Shirk, George M.	1912 1927	C
Shirk, Peter	1892 1911	C
Shoemaker, Alexander	1888 1891	B
Shoemaker, Allen	1920 1929	B
Shoemaker, David M.	1892 1894	B
Shoemaker, David S.	1850 1861	C
Sipes, John Nelson	1888 1895	B
Snider, Elias	1850 1852	B
Snider, Harold Jacob	1946 1947	B
Snider, Henry	1850 1858	B
Bowman, Wendell	1859 1861	B
Snider, Jacob S.	1870 1870	B
Snider, Josiah	1880 1886	B
Snider, Kenard	1955 1963	B
Snider, Peter A.	1918 1947	C
Snider, Tilman B.	1879 1885	B
Snider, William	1887 1887	B
Snyder, Benjamin S.	1879 1879	B
Snyder, Daniel	1854 1857	B
Snyder, Joseph S.	1902 1919	B
Snyder, Menno S.	1918 1923	B
Stauffer, Josiah S.	1905 1911	B
Stauffer, Levi	1873 1874	B
Steckle, John	1934 1938	B

Tilt, George A.	1883 1918	C
Tilt, William	1862 1882	C
Tilt, William W.	1927 1932	B

Veitch, Robert J.	1914 1926	B
Voisin, Edward	1968 1972	B

Weber, Lorne B.	1932 1943	B
Weber, Noah	1895 1899	B
Wills, John R.	1962 1963	B
Willson, Ephraim	1916 1917	B
Wisner, Moses E.	1874 1874	B
Wood, James R.	1916 1935	B
Woolner, Isaac H.	1872 1878	B

Zinger, Joseph A.	1953 1957	B
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